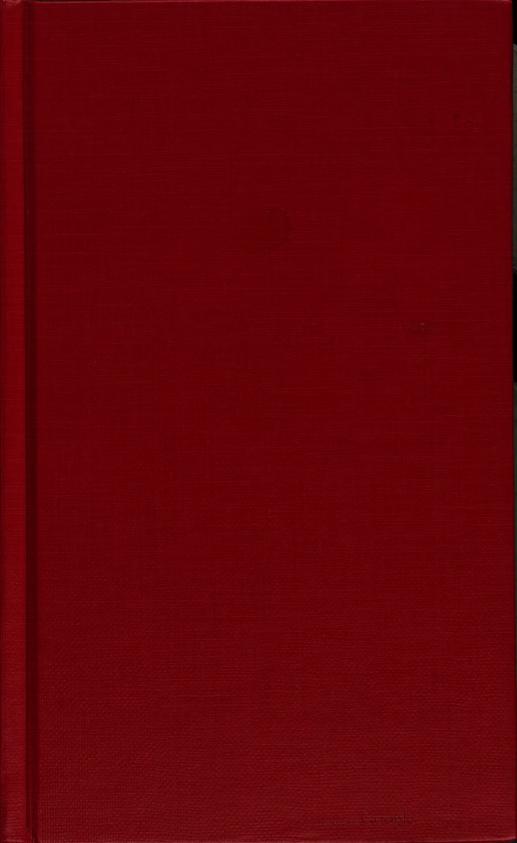
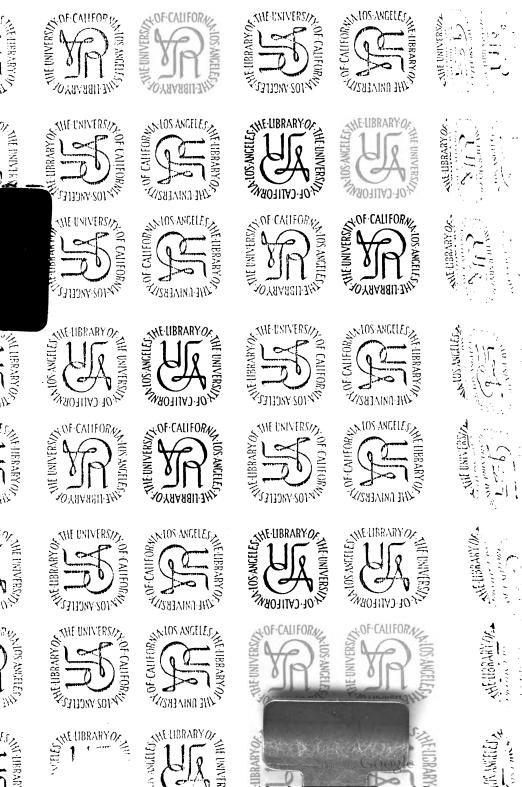
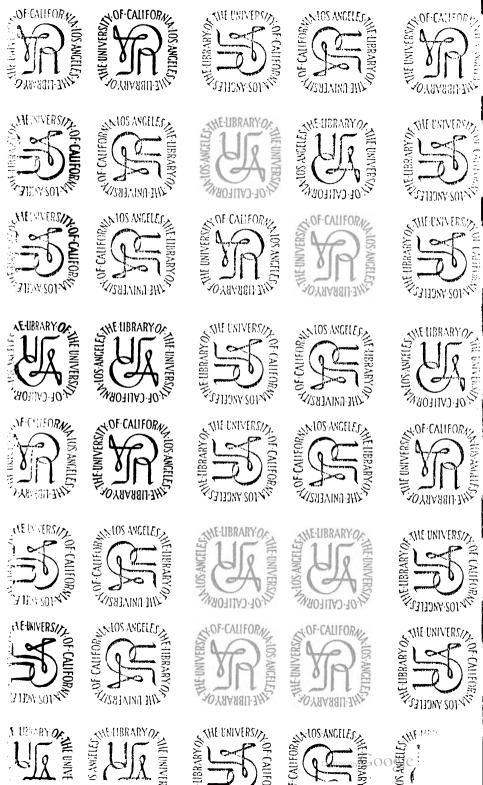
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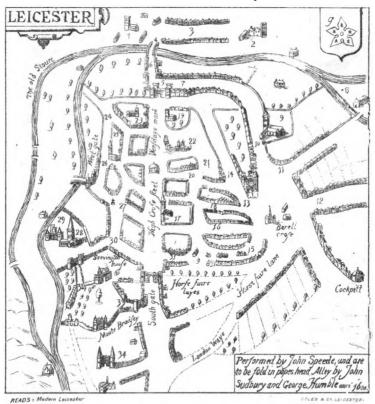






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Reduced fac-simile of Speedes Map of Leicester, 1600.

Modern Leicester:

JOTTINGS OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH,

WITH

An Original History

OF

CORPORATION UNDERTAKINGS,

AND OF EACH

REGULAR, MILITIA, YEOMANRY, & RIFLE

REGIMENT LOCALISED AT

THE NEW MILITARY CENTRE.

 \mathbf{BY}

ROBERT READ, JUNR.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & Co.

LEICESTER: WINKS & SON, 53, HIGH STREET.

1881.

ДА 690 4582



HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, K.G.,

LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER, &c., &c.,

THESE HUMBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO A POPULAR KNOWLEDGE

OF

"Modern Leicester"

ARE, BY EXPRESS PERMISSION, RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

ВY

HIS GRACE'S MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

ROBERT READ, JUNIOR.

48, SOUTHGATE STREET, LEICESTER, MARCH, 1881.

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CORRIGENDA.

Page 10, line 1. For "began" read begun.

Page 19, line 35. For "costs" read cost.

Page 27, line 6. For "maximum" read maximum.

Page 59, line 30. For "rnom" read room.

Page 78, line 23. After £78,000 omit "per annum."

Page 110, line 31. For "Indoon" read Indore.

Page 112, line 5. For "pemkahs" read punkahs.

Page 117, line 36. For "retiring" read returning.

Page 124, line 1. For "1874" read 1794.

Page 126, line 14. For "add" read and,

Page 138, line 36. For "S. T. Stallyard" read J. H. Stallard.

Page 142, line 12. For "disembarked" read disembodied.

Page 142, line 30. For "Whitley" read Whitby.

Page 144, line 1. For "R.G." read K.G.

Page 154, line 15. For "1759" read 1795.

Page 155, lines 1 and 15. For "1876" read 1796.

Page 155, line 25. For "1877" read 1797.

Page 173, line 17. For "swore" read sworn.

Page 204, line 30. For "Treasurer" read Treasury.

Page 268, line 1. For "under" read and over.

Page 274, line 22, and wherever repeated, for "Weldon" read Welldon.

ADDENDUM.

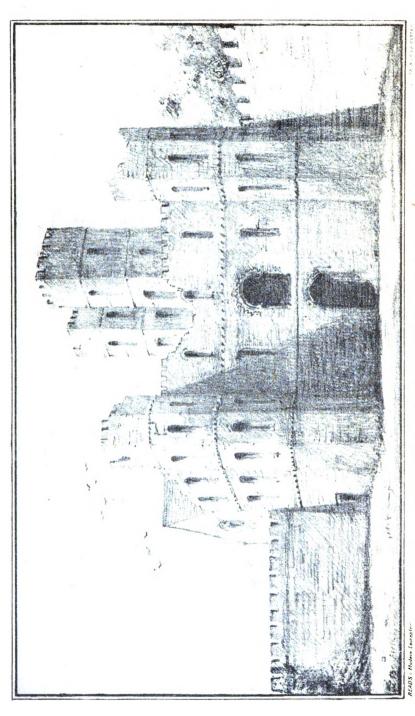
Mr. William Green, pensioner, whose history is given in the chapter on the Veteran's Banquet, died at Leicester, on 27th January, 1881, aged 96. PRINTED BY
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LEICESTER.

INTRODUCTORY.

HY have I attempted to write and ventured to publish this volume, entitled "Modern Leicester"? The question may be fairly asked, and shall be frankly answered. "Leicester born and bred," of recent date a loving student of her past history, a careful observer of passing events and seeking knowledge where feeling deficient, why not try to crystallise the impressions made upon me by tradition, history and personal experience, that some townsmen, who know better than I, may correct me where I err; and other townsmen, who know less, or may not have taken the trouble to search out as much, may find facts, in a brief compass, to make them prouder than ever of a noble old town of which they are already proud? I am free to confess that, in years past, my own studies received an impetus they might have otherwise lacked from intellectual men and women, whom I have met in my travels, who, as soon as they have known I was a native of Leicester, would eagerly begin to question me about King Richard and Bosworth Field; about old Leicester Castle, the birthplace of the British House of Commons; about the probability of Shakespeare having acted in the Old Guildhall and wandered amid the weird scenery of Charnwood Forest; and about a host of other historical associations clustering around Leicester. Though having a dim knowledge of something floating in my memory respecting all they sought to know, the knowledge was so indistinct, that they have turned away in disappointment, if not in pity, at my indefinite

answers. It was galling to one who loved his native town not to be able to tell her story from exact information, and no inexact answers would have satisfied my questioners. Like school children (of the olden times, of course, and not since Board Schools have sprung up like mushrooms), who knew more of the geography of France and Germany than of England or their own county, the writer was conscious that he had been taught more about ancient Jerusalem or Rome than about Leicester. was this? The information is scattered through so many large, expensive, scarce and almost inaccessible volumes, that few have the opportunity or diligence to search for it; while in a skeleton chronology or diffuse chronological history, no connected idea of special subjects can be obtained by a reader who reads cursorily, either through stress of other engagements, or having no connective faculty to piece together scattered fragments. Thus arose the endeavour, on my part, to connect such fragments, and present, with some completeness, each subject, dissociated from contemporary though alien subjects, under a separate heading. But it may be inquired, "Why intrude so much of ancient into 'Modern Leicester?'" My only justification is that one does not know to-day except in the light o yesterday, and that one cannot adequately realise how Leicester has come to be as she is without a glimpse of at least two or three centuries of her past. But the reader will find that "Modern Leicester" has not been neglected. Newspapers so "cram" us-properly enough from their point of view-with the local and universal events of the day or the week, that we have little time to separate the evanescent from the essential. For example, Corporation or School Board legislation of a month, or a year, or a few years ago, and its effects on our municipal future are entirely forgotten, or very dimly grasped. How few could intelligently answer the query, Whither are we drifting? This is not healthy from an individual, or judicious from a public point of view. Surely it cannot be unwise to put something on record which may act as a danger signal to warn us of obtacles ahead; or a caution signal to warn us to move on gently; or a

cheery white light to indicate that the line is clear, and that we may dash gaily on to the end of the course we have begun to travel? When asked, for instance, by some bewildered rate-payer, regarding the schemes of our rulers—how much they have cost, how much they will cost, and what is their scope, I have felt equally bewildered; and I hope my humble effort with all its faults on its head, will do a little to clear away some prevailing fogs, which do not arise from culpable ignorance, but from the rapid pace at which, in this era, we rush unthinkingly along. At any rate, my readers will at least confess that my remarks have been inspired by animosity to none, but friendship to all, and that I do not yield to the most loyal townsman in an honest, earnest, unflagging desire to maintain the good name and advance the purity and prosperity of dear old Leicester.



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BELVOIR CASTLE, AND THE DUKES OF RUTLAND.

"The stately homes of England, How beautiful they stand Amid their tall ancestral trees— The pride of all the land!"

OBERT DE TODENI, the valiant Standard-bearer to the Norman Conqueror, had a keen eye for strength and beauty of situation, when he selected the Margidunum of Antoninus for the site of his feudal keep, and appropriately named it Belvoir. Now founding Priories and Chapels, and now fighting for the Cross, or the Crown, or their own Castle, his descendants—De Albini, Espec or De Ros—held noticeable places in the dark, stormy, and yet chivalrous centuries from 1066 to the latter half of the 15th century. Then it was that Edmund Lord Ros died without issue, and Eleanor his sister and co-heir married Sir Robert de Manners-a surname quite as intimately as the familiar title of Rutland interwoven in the history of Leicester; clearly writ from time to time in the rolls of England's naval and military prowess; and not less famous in the deliberations of Parliament and in the dalliance of the Court than in the sports of the field and forest. To Belvoir, close on the dawn of the 16th century, George Manners, Lord Ros, carried a Royal bride, the niece of Edward IV. Distinguishing himself against the Pretender, he was a favourite with both Henry VII. and Henry VIII., and, by the latter monarch, his successor Thomas, Lord Ros, was created Knight of the Garter and Earl of Rutland in 1526. In his time, the rebuilding of Belvoir Castle was commenced, to be completed by Henry the second Earl. Edward, the third Earl, was distinguished as the approved servant of Queen Elizabeth. His brother John, who succeeded him, died a year after in 1588, to be succeeded by his son Roger, then only eleven years of age. A warm friendship was matured between Earl Roger (when he had developed into a gay witty courtier and animated anti-armada volunteer) and the Earl of Essex, nine years his senior. Both of these fell under Queen Elizabeth's displeasure, and while Essex went to the block Rutland was consigned to prison. This was atoned for by James I., who visited Belvoir in the course of his royal progress from Edinburgh to London. His Majesty rode from Newark, on 22nd April 1603. "hunting" all the way to Belvoir, where the Chronicler has been pleased to say that "his highness was not only royally and most plenteously received; but in such exceeding joy of the good Earl and his honourable lady that he took therein exceeding pleasure." Francis, the brother of Roger, and the sixth Earl succeeded in 1612. His two sons died in infancy. fatality was attributed to "wicked practice and sorcery." Margaret and Philippa Flower, "two chairwomen," were convicted of murder and executed at Lincoln accordingly. Of their mother, Joan Flower, before her conviction, it is related that she "called for bread and butter, and wished it might never go through her, if she were guilty of that whereupon she was examined; so, mumbling it in her mouth, she never spoke more words after, but fell down and died, as she was carried to Lincoln gaol, with a horrible excruciation of soul and body, and was buried at Ancaster." Who dare dispute the righteousness of the triple death who is informed that the three "witches" had a cat called Rutterkin, the "diabolical agent of their machinations"?

A royal visit by Charles I. to George, the seventh Earl, was not forgotten in the time of his successor, John Manners of Haddon, when Cromwell's Iconoclasts besieged, captured, and dismantled the Castle. It was rebuilt in 1668, and its magnificence sung to in the "Harleian Miscellany" of 1679, after this manner:—

"Belvoir! neighbour to the sky,

That with light doth deck its brows.

Belvoir! Art's masterpiece and Nature's pride."

O'! Bow Bridge.

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Another John, the ninth Earl, followed in 1679, whose predilections were entirely for the pleasures and pursuits of a rural life, and who was zealously attentive to the business of the county of Leicester. In March, 1703, Queen Anne, "in consideration of his great merits and the services of his ancestors to the nation," conferred on him the titles of Marquis of Granby and Duke of Rutland. He died at Belvoir Castle on January 10, 1710. His son, also John, married, in the first instance, to the "devout" daughter of the beheaded William, Lord Russel, was cut off by small-pox on February 22, 1720, at the early age of forty-five. John, the third Duke, succeeded, and his eldest son was the great Marquis of Granby, who was born in 1720, and raised a regiment for His Majesty's service in the rebellion of 1745. He covered himself and the British forces with glory, in their co-operation with the King of Prussia, in the seven vears' war, at Minden, Warburg, Kirchdenkern, Grebenstein, and Homburg. He died, without succeeding to the dukedom. on 19th October, 1770, with the estimable character of "a good soldier; brave, active, generous, careful of his men, and beloved by them." The historian of Belvoir pertinently remarks: "His popularity is shown by the frequent occurrence of his portrait as a sign for public-houses, even of late years." The blood of the great Marquis flowed in the veins of his son Robert, who so distinguished himself against the Spaniards and the French. that, when he died of wounds received in the memorable action off Dominica, on April 12th, 1782, though his body, by his own request, was committed to the deep, Parliament ordered a monument to be erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey.

Charles, the elder brother of this naval hero, became Marquis of Granby at the death of his father, and fourth Duke of Rutland on the death of his grandfather, 29th May, 1779. Here it will be found by my readers that the history of the Rutland family at this point touches the military and municipal history of "Modern Leicester;" for this Duke raised a regiment of foot for the King's service when England was at war with America and France, and died at Dublin, October 24, 1787, at the premature age of thirty-four, being then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as well as of his native County. John Henry, who succeeded, was but nine years old when he became entitled to

the strawberry leaf; but manhood soon found him, in the manner of the Rutlands, in the fore-front of all good works for Crown, Country, County, and County-town, as I have briefly recorded in various chapters of this work. Within a couple of years of Waterloo, the Prince Regent visited Belvoir Castle, where he was entertained with feudal magnificence, and presented with a golden key to Staunton Tower, no insinuation being implied by the fact that here the Rutlands store their priceless vintages. During the visit of His Royal Highness (January 5, 1813), Mr. William Walker, Mayor of Leicester, accompanied by the recorder, the four magistrates, the town clerk, the chamberlains. and the mace-bearer, approached the Prince Regent with a dutiful address from the Corporation. The Duke of Rutland greatly gratified the deputation by acting as master of the ceremonies, while the Leicestershire Militia band played "God Save the King" as the Mayor and his supporters passed through the entrance of the long gallery. I cannot refrain from quoting the historical account of the sequel: "The address was delivered by the Mayor into the hands of the Recorder, by whom it was spoken to His Royal Highness, with a dignified respect and attention and in a tone of manly feeling, most suitable to the occasion, and evidently producing an impression on the countenance of His Royal Highness most marked and gratifying. The Prince Regent immediately read his answer with a degree of spirit and with a grace and affability peculiarly characteristic of His Royal Highness, which fascinated all those in whose presence it was delivered. His Royal Highness then conferred the honour of knighthood on the Mayor (now Sir William Walker), who kissed His Royal Highness' hand." Scarcely three years after, on Saturday morning, October 26, 1816, a fire broke out in the Castle, destroying the north-east and northwest fronts; the heat being so intense that the stone of the grand staircase crumbled into powder. Happily the south-west and south-east fronts, the splendid design of which had been in process of actual completion from 1801-16, were spared, through the simple fact of a door, leading from the wings destroyed into the Prince Regent's Gallery, having been bricked up. Priceless pictures, commercially valued at £10,478, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir P. Lely, Rubens, Rembrandt, Salvator-Rosa, &c., &c., were consumed. His Grace at once set about rebuilding, and the following are the closing sentences of a document signed by him, which he placed, on 10th March, 1817, in one of the foundation stones of the centre tower, in the north-east front.

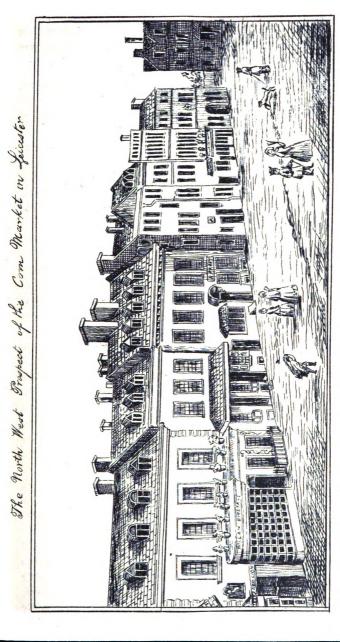
"It is with a due sense of the divine goodness and with a proper gratitude for the mercy of God, that I recommence on this day, the rebuilding of the north-west and north-east fronts of Belvoir Castle (which were totally destroyed by fire), having committed the superintendence of the building to the Rev. Sir John Thornton, knight, assisted by Sir Thomas Turner, as clerk of the works;—fully confiding in their ability to temper splendour with prudence, and comfort with economy, but more particularly conscious that

Except the Lord build the house
Their labour is but lost that build it.

RUTLAND."

On 29th November, 1825, a greater calamity than the destruction of a castle befel his Grace, in the death of his Duchess, Elizabeth, daughter of Frederick, Earl of Carlisle, in the vigour of matronhood, at the early age of forty-five. Of her it is written that "in this distinguished lady were united the attractive softness of the most perfect grace and beauty, with a vigour of understanding, and a clearness of intellect, seldom equalled in either sex. Her taste was pure and refined; she excelled in every elegant female accomplishment; and by her own spontaneous efforts, in the midst of gaiety and pleasure had stored her mind with much solid knowledge. Her piety was fervent, simple and unaffected; her mind was early imbued with a deep sense of religion, which was confirmed by reflection, even in the joyous days of youthful happiness." The minute chronicler proceeds:-"By her good management the estates were improved, and the surrounding villages embellished; and while her general views were enlarged and magnificent, she did not disdain to interest herself in the most minute details that could improve the habits or increase the comforts of the poorest Moreover her Grace was a successful practical cottager." farmer: while not a few architectural improvements on the bank of the Thames, in the Parks, and elsewhere in London and Westminster are from designs suggested by her taste and talent. Her Grace's grave in Bottesford Church is still a reverent shine, for all who have heard of the virtues and labours of "the ever to be lamented Duchess of Rutland."

Happily, there is a time to laugh as well as a time to weep. and in the closing week of November, 1839, Belvoir put on its most magnificently festive aspect to give a splendid welcome to the Queen Dowager. The royal progress from Gopsall, the sest of Earl Howe, through Leicester and Melton Mowbray, was attended by every circumstance of loyal rejoicing; while from Melton to Belvoir Her Majesty was escorted by a troop of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, commanded by Sir G. Palmer, Bart. At Croxton Park the royal party was met by the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood in carriages, and a splendid cavalcade, composed of the entire Belvoir Hunt, headed by Lord Forester, M.F.H. Through an avenue, thus lined, Queen Adelaide drove across Blackberry Hill and over the Knipton Reservoir to the guarded entrance of the Castle. The Duke of Rutland's band struck up "God Save the Queen," a royal salute of 21 guns was fired from the bastion, the royal standard was run up from the Regent's Tower, and the royal guest was conducted into the grand saloon. Not to weary the reader with the details of the positively royal manner in which the Duke entertained the Queen Dowager-there are yet yeomen who dilate with gusto on the luxurious night and day they "put in," at the Duke's expense, within the hospitable doors of the Peacock that snugly nestles in the castellated shadows. desire the departure from Belvoir was as privately unostentatious as Her Majesty's advent was worthily royal. The Queen Dowager, to the day of her death, referred with pleasure to the enjoyment she experienced during her brief sojourn amid the external beauties and internal amenities of Belvoir, and her friendship for John Henry, fifth Duke of Rutland, who was gathered to his ancestors on the 20th January, 1837, at the goodly age of seventy-nine years; and whose personal virtues, national achievements, and local benefactions are commemorated in the bronze statue which adorns Leicester Market-place. Not being a courtier, I must leave the brief record, to be found elsewhere, to speak to the natural amiability and talent and praiseworthy public spirit of Charles Cecil John, the present Duke of Rutland,



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who was born on 16th May, 1815, and succeeded his father. Like his predecessors, his Grace is the friend of royalty. and Belvoir Castle has been graced by a visit from Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the late Prince Consort. The following family details from the current Debrett will be of general interest:-

RUTLAND, DUKE OF (MANNERS).

Charles Cecil John Manners, K.G., 6th Duke, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire. Born May 16th, 1815, succeeded his father in 1857; educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge (M.A. 1835); sat as M.P. for Stamford, 1837—52, and for North Leicestershire, 1852—7; was a Lord of the Bed-Chamber to the Prince Consort, 1843—6, and Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, 18*2—7; appointed Major Leicestershire Militia, 1839, and Hon. Colonel, 1857. Brother living,—John James Robert, P.C., LL.D., M.P., heir-presumptive; born 1818; educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge; (M.A. 1839, IL.D. 1862.)

Sisters living,—Elizabeth Frederica, born 1801, married 1822 (Drummond).—Adeliza Gertrude Elizabeth, born 1810, married 1848 (Norman).

Patron of twenty-four livings.

Belvoir Castle should not be unknown to the people of Leicester, of whose institutions the noble owners have always been judicious patrons. That, at all events, was the main feeling which inspired me to visit the grand pile before the present year of grace was one moon old. Most encouraging was To begin with, his Grace personally and corthe experience. dially gave me permission to dedicate to him this humble contribution to a popular knowledge of "Modern Leicester." Then, in my researches, I was privileged to have Mr. Sickland, House Steward, and Mr. Marvell, Groom of the Chambers, as genial "philosophers and friends," and Sergeant Ryder as a minutely learned "guide." Many months-much less a few hourswould not suffice to acquire a thorough knowledge of the natural and artificial beauties for which Belvoir Castle is distinguished, or the historical mementoes with which it abounds. Over the wonderful painting by David Teniers, illustrative of "Dutch Proverbs," one might profitably spend days and learn enough of the philosophy of existence to last a lifetime; but in the magnificent picture-gallery eye and mind become alike bewildered in a hasty review of precious works from the easels of Joshua Reynold, Claud Lorraine, Murillo, Rubens, Holbein, Paul Veronese, and other princes of the brush. Space would fail me to detail the chaste propriety of the private chapel, the artistic seclusion of the gilded library, the stateliness of grand corridors and saloons, the beauty and sweetness of boudoirs, or

the "Roast Beef of Old England" invitations of the many dining-rooms. Gems of art in painting, sculpture, and carved tracery abound everywhere, which would well repay prolonged study. Now I am penetrated with admiration at the gorgeous gallery of the Regent, with its picturesquely tapestried walls and graphic simulacra of famous statesmen, in marble that all but breathes; now I am in the Staunton Tower, founded by Robert de Todeni, and at present allotted to the peaceful use of accommodating 800 dozens of the rarest wines; now I descend into the ale cellars, to look like a Lilliputian among the eight-and twenty monster barrels of the first compartment, the largest of which holds 1,300 gallons; and now I find myself surveying a magnificent landscape from the window of the Steward's room in the north-east tower. The guard-room-into which the front entrance leads one-possesses for me peculiar interest. walls are covered with arms. Here are specimens of the old "Brown Bress" and flint lock, kept splendidly polished by Sergeant Hammond. There you see two large circles, each composed of sixty swords, formerly belonging to the Horse Guards Blue. These are balanced by other two circles, formed by swords once belonging to the old Leicestershire Militia. The old colours of the regiment have here a place of honour. Elsewhere, by the bye, towards the rear of the Castle, are preserved two cannon, inscribed with the name of the Loddington Volunteers. But to return: facing the entrance is a splendid cannon, a prize of the Sikh campaign, presented to the late Duke by General Hardinge. Here also are more personal memorials of his late Grace-whose statue we Leicester men cherish-in the form of his dress swords. Not least interesting are the mementoes of the famous Marquis of Granby,-the old leather and silk jackets worn by him, his knightly Garter, his dress saddle, the gold medal struck when he was Master-General of the Ordnance, his silver-chased presentation swords and silver-mounted trophies. But, being at the entrance-door, it is fitting that I should make my exit from the hospitable hall of the noble Manners, who is not only noble because he wears the strawberry-leaved coronet. but because he is the owner of a just, generous, philanthropic, and thoughtful soul-a fact which can be attested by all who have come in contact with his Grace from among the publicirited citizens of "Modern Leicester."

THE CORPORATION OF LEICESTER: THEIR SCHEMES AND IMPROVEMENTS.

GLANCE at Speede's map of Leicester, dated 1600, is perhaps the most eloquent attainable commentary on the progress of "Modern Leicester." St. Mary's Church on the West, the "Cockpit" near the present Rutland Street on the East, rural St. Leonard's to the far North, and the little less rural "New Warke" to the South, indicate the circumscribed limits of Leicester past; while within the gates there is such abundant tree-dotted evidence of rus in urbe, that one cannot but conclude overcrowding was scarcely the municipal evil of the Seventeenth In 1774, the Corporation awoke to the knowledge that guardless gates were anachronisms, and the four mediæval inlets-north, south, east and west-were taken down. by the help of such illustrations as will be found in this work, that the quaint aspect of streets lined with curiously gabled lath and plaster houses can be adequately realised. It may surprise some to be told that the New Walk-that admirable lung contiguous to palpitating arteries of traffic-was formed by the Corporation as long ago as 1785, to be a "place of healthy exercise for the inhabitants"; but it is pleasant to reflect that if recreative progress has been slow, the eyes of our ancestors were not quite closed to the hygienic proprieties which in these days are so highly appreciated. Should not greater progress

have been made in a sanitary work began nearly 100 years ago? At all events, we of this age will not be able to lay the flattering unction to our souls that the time has arrived to "rest and be thankful." Nevertheless, we may say of municipal progress, as Galileo retorted of the world on his inquisitorial torturers, "Still it moves!"

The clearest documentary evidence of this is to be found in a perspicuous "semi-official" work, compiled by Mr. John Storey, Town Clerk, for a copy of which I return that talented official my sincere thanks. It will not be objected to if I here introduce a touching retrospect by the previous Town Clerk, the late Samuel Stone, Esq., whose "Justices' Manual" still remains the guide, the philosopher and friend of the Great Unpaid. Writing in May 1871, Mr. Stone said: -"I cannot conclude this Introduction without noticing that the population of this Borough has increased during the period I have held the office of Town Clerk from about 44,000 in 1836, to 95,083, according to the census of 1871, or without adverting to the changes which have taken place in the composition of the Council during the same period. To the surprise of many, and the regret of all, it will be seen that not one of those who took part in the inauguration of the representative system of Municipal Government is now on the Council; and that of the 56 Aldermen and Councillors who composed the Council on the 1st January, 1836, six only are now living, namely, Mr. John Biggs, Mr. William Biggs, Mr. Thomas Burgess, Mr. William Evans Hutchinson, Mr. William Miles and Mr. W. W. Stretton. Of the ten gentlemen whose names appear in the first Commission of the Peace. in 1836, one only (Mr. John Biggs) is living; of the eight gentlemen whose names were added in 1839, not one remains; and of the eight who were placed on the Commission in 1841, one only (Dr. Shaw) is now living. Of the 40 members of the legal profession who were practising in 1836, 13 only remain; and of the 23 members of the medical profession then in practice four only are now living, namely, Dr. Shaw, Mr. Thomas Paget, Mr. Denton, and Mr. Bowmar. If we cast our eyes round the

town and visit its churches and chapels, the changes effected by the 'wheel of time' are no less remarkable. In only one of the churches (St. Nicholas) is there the same Incumbent; and of the Ministers of the various Dissenting Congregations three only (the Rev. C. Berry, the Rev. J. P. Mursell, and the Rev. T. Stevenson) are now living: the two latter, in the enjoyment of the esteem of their fellow-townsmen, continue to discharge their pastoral duties to large and sympathising congregations; the former (Mr. Berry) my venerable Preceptor, in the retirement of domestic life and surrounded by a large circle of friends, solaces the declining years of a cheerful old age with the hopes and promises of the Christian faith, and the calm delights of literature and classic lore. I will not pursue this retrospect; but I cannot conclude without adding that, to many members of the first Council, whose earthly career is now closed, and to the few who still remain, and to those gentlemen who have since, from time to time, been members of the Corporation, I am indebted for acts of kindness, confidence and consideration, which can never be forgotten! and that with some of those who were my warmest supporters in the earlier stage of my professional and official life, my friendship continued uninterrupted, until terminated by that event which severs all human ties.—Samuel STONE." To this Mr. Storey, on 24th July, 1879, adds:-"Since the above words were penned, Mr. John Biggs, Mr. Thomas Burgess, Mr. William Miles, Mr. Thomas Paget, and the Rev. C. Berry, have died; and the useful life of the author of this touching retrospect closed on the 5th day of February, 1874. The present estimated population of the Borough is 122,000 and the rateable value upwards of £396,000."

Before the passing of the "Municipal Corporations Act," which received the Royal assent on 9th September, 1835, the local legislature consisted of a Mayor, 24 Aldermen, elected for life by the Mayor and Aldermen out of the Common Council, and 48 Common Councilmen elected by the Mayor and Aldermen out of the Freemen. The old Corporation went out of office on 1st January, 1836, and were succeeded by a representative

Council elected on 26th December, 1835; its composition, which still continues, being thus succinctly described by Mr. Storey:-"The Council consists of 14 Aldermen and 42 Councillors (i.e. six Councillors for each of the seven wards into which the Borough is divided), the Mayor being annually elected by the Council out of the Aldermen or Councillors. The Aldermen are elected by the Council either from Councillors or persons duly qualified to be Councillors, and continue in office for six years, seven of the Aldermen going out of office every third year. The Councillors are elected by the Burgesses, and continue in office for three years, one-third of the Councillors for each ward going out of office on the 1st November every year, and their successors being elected on the same day." By the same Act, the Borough boundaries were enlarged to embrace the Bishops' Fees, the South Fields, the Castle View, the Newarke, and "such other parts of the town as were formerly locally within and contributory to the rates for the county." A separate Quarter Sessions for the Borough was also granted, and exclusive jurisdiction therein was conferred on the Borough Magistrates. As no complete list of Mayors of the "reformed" Corporation is given in any popular work easy of access, I proceed to supply the vacuum :---

COMPLETE LIST OF MAYORS OF LEICESTER FROM 1836.

Thomas Paget	1st Jan.,	1836	John Biggs (2nd time) Nov. 9 1847
Thomas Paget (2nd	time)		Wm. Biggs (2nd time) ,, 1848
	9th Nov.,	1836	Thomas Nunneley ,, 1849
Robert Brewin	,,	1837	John Dove Harris ,, 1850
Thomas Stokes	,,	1838	George Toller 10th 1851
Joseph Whetstone	,,	1839	John Manning ,, 1852
John Biggs	,,,	1840	Samuel How ,, 1853
Thomas Stokes (2nd	l time)	l	Richard Harrris, Junr. " 1854
	9th Nov.	1841	John Biggs (3rd time) ,, 1855
Wm. Biggs	. ,,	1842	John Dove Harris (2nd time)
Richard Harris	,,	1843	14th June 1856
John Mellor	,,,	1844	Joseph Underwood 10th Nov. 1856
Edward Weston	. ,,	1845	Joseph Underwood (2nd time)
Joseph Fielding	٠,,	1846	9th Nov. 1857

Joseph William Noble 9th Nov. 1	L858	John Stafford 9th Nov.	1870	
Wm. Biggs (3rd time)		John Stafford (2nd time)		
19th April 1	1859	9th Nov.	1871	
James Francis Hollings		George Foxton ,,	1872	
9th Nov. 1	1859	William Kempson 10th Nov.	1873	
Edward Shipley Ellis ,, 1	1860	Charles Harding 9th Nov.	1874	
Samuel Viccars ,, 1	L861,	William Barfoot ,,	1875	
George Toller (2nd time)		William Winterton ,,	1876	
10th Nov. 1	1862	Clement Stretton ,,	1877	
George Baines 9th Nov. 1	1863	William Grimsley ,,	1878	
Alfred Burgess ,, 1	1864	(Died 21st Nov. 1878)		
Thomas Wm. Hodges ,. 1	1865	Clement Stretton (2nd time)		
Ditto (2nd time) ,. 1	1866	30th Nov.	1878	
Ditto (3rd time) ,, 1	1867	John Bennett ,,	1879	
John Baines ,, 1	1868	John Bennett (2nd time) "	1880	
George Stevenson ,, 1	1869			

The following is the present composition of the Leicester Town Council:—

MAYOR-John Bennett.

ALDERMEN-

Clement Stretton
Thomas Windley
Henry Thomas Chambers
George Stevenson
Samuel Sharman Wheeler
Thomas Norman
George Viccars

John Bennett
William Winterton
George Anderson
William Kempson
John Stafford
William Barfoot
Alfred Paget

COUNCILLORS-

St. Martin's Ward—
Joseph Hames
Thomas Holyland
John Bennett Fowler
John Crane
John Crow
William Neale

NORTH ST. MARGARET'S WARD—
George Green
John Holmes
Harrison Simpson Gee
Francis Hewitt
Joseph Jessop
William Dicks

MIDDLE ST. MARGARET'S WARD—
John Sladen
John Meadows
William Colton
James Green
Samuel Cleaver
Robert Rowley

EAST ST. MARGARET'S WARD— Samuel Mather Thomas Wright William John Bruin Thomas Coleman Goddard John William Black Israel Hart East St. Mary's Ward—
Robert Walker
Henry Lankester
Edward Wood
William Millican
Alfred Howard Burgess
Alfred Else

WEST St. MARY'S WARD— Thomas Bland John James Preston John Bennett Thomas Henry Downing Henry Sheen Josiah Gimson

ALL SAINTS' WARD—
Cornelius Gurden
Thomas Ashby
Thomas Almond
Joseph Wilford
John Underwood
Thomas Turner

CORPORATION OFFICIALS-

OFFICER OF HEALTH—William Johnston, M.D.
SURVEYOR—Joseph Gordon, C.E.
CLERK TO MAGISTRATES—R. R. Blackwell.
ENGINEER OF FLOOD WORKS—Frederick Griffith, C.E.
ACCOUNTANT—Thomas Coltman, Junr.
CHIEF CONSTABLE—Joseph Farndale.

The following is a list of the gentlemen who now hold the Commission of the Peace as

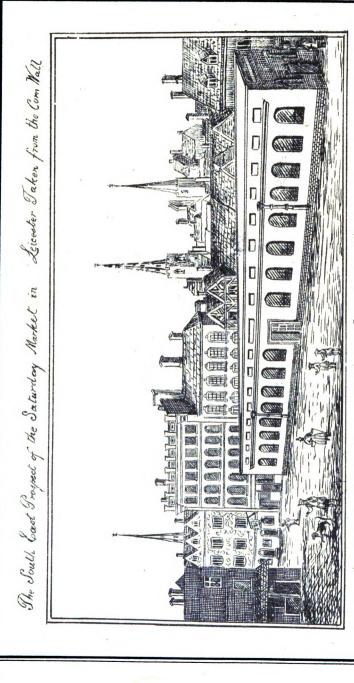
BOROUGH MAGISTRATES-

Clement Stretton, Esq. (Ex Mayor) George Shaw, Esq., M.D. William Biggs, Esq. Alfred Burgess, Esq. Samuel Stephens Bankart, Esq. Isaac Harrison, Esq. Thomas Dennis Paul, Esq. Samuel Viccars, Esq. Richard Angrave, Esq. Charles Richard Crossley, Esq. John Howcutt, Esq. William Bowmar, Esq. Thomas James Wheeler, Esq. John Thomas Pilgrim, Esq. Thomas Fielding Johnson, Esq. John Stafford, Esq.

William Weston Stretton, Esq.
William Rowlett, Esq.
Thomas Merrett Evans, Esq.
John Higginson, Esq.
John Sarson, Esq.
William Winterton, Esq.
John Pretty Clarke, Esq.
John Crow, Esq.
Horatio Edwin Emberlin, Esq.
William Kempson, Esq.
William Millican, Esq.
Alfred Paget, Esq.
William Napier Reeve, Esq.
John Geo. Fredk. Richardson, Esq.
William Barfoot, Esq.

HIGH BAILIFF-Israel Hart, Esq.

But to turn from the *personnel* to the work of the Corporation. So very *radical* was the reform of 1836 that, like old iconoclasts, the reformers desired not to leave a vestige of the obsolete *regime*. The gold mace of the Corporation as an empty

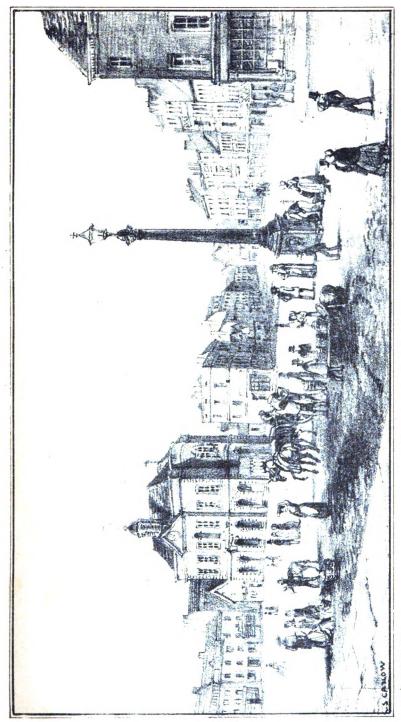


"bauble" fell under the hammer for £85. More sensible counsels prevailed 30 years later, when it was repurchased by subscription and is now kept in an oak box bearing the subjoined inscription: - "This mace was purchased by the Corporation of Leicester during the Commonwealth, A.D. 1649, to replace one lost at the siege of the Town A.D. 1645, and was sold by auction A.D. 1836. Repurchased by public subscription and presented to the Corporation A.D. 1866, during the Mayoralty of Thomas William Hodges, Esquire. Samuel Stone, Town Clerk. February, 1867." Mr. Storey, in a note, says:-"The second or Sergeant's mace (which was also sold with the Great Mace) was presented to the Corporation on the 25th July, 1876, during the mayoralty of William Barfoot, Esquire, by Mr. G. H. It is of the date of Charles the Second." mayoral insignia now consist of a Gold Chain, with enamelled medallions, purchased in 1867 at a cost of £185. Perhaps by and bye the Council may get over the puritanism which at present prevents our Mayor from appearing abroad decked like his civic brethren elsewhere in flowing scarlet robes.

The "reformed" epoch inaugurated by the Mayoralty of Thomas Paget, Esquire, will probably appear to succeeding generations the most important in the annals of Leicester, followed as it was by the vital Health Acts of 1848, 1872 and 1875, empowering the Corporation as the Urban Sanitary Authority to take measures, unhappily not altogether effectual even now, to prevent or stamp out disease. Something has been done, though the fringe of the necessary undertakings is only as yet touched, to improve leading thoroughfares. For such facts and figures as I briefly give, I am indebted to Mr. Storey's admirable little brochure which is a marvel of clearness and exactitude.

The following new streets (apart from others laid out by owners of building land) have been laid out by the Corporation, and many of them have been important factors in adding to the amenity and convenience of the town:—De Montfort Street, Napier Street, Chestnut street, Walnut Street, Princess Street Extension, Pocklington's Walk Extension (from Millstone Lane to Friar Lane), Grey Friars Street (from Friar Lane to St. Martin's) Filbert Street, Hazel Street, Granville Road, Salisbury

Street. Cross Walk, two new streets across the site of the Old Cattle Market, New Street from angle of Horse Fair Street and Gallowtree Gate into the Market Place (involving the purchase of the Lion and Lamb property-still a monstrosity-at the price of £7,900, and the two adjoining shops for £4,300), continuation of Jarvis Street and extension of Jarrom Street. It is scarcely creditable that our handsome Market Place should have such an awkward and unfinished main entrance, nor will tradesmen in the Market Place be satisfied until a more direct artery is cut through to High Street, and the Millstone Lane approach is made worthy of the progressive age in which our lot is The Parliamentary powers, by which the "No Man's Land" in Humberstone Gate, have been acquired by the Corporation, are being judiciously used for the improvement of that praiseworthily wide and commercially important thoroughfare. There, if anywhere, we might have a miniature reproduction of the tree-shaded boulevards of Paris. Here, I cannot help pausing to point by way of comparison and as worthy imitation to the thoroughness and taste with which Mr. John Burton and his coadjutors carried out the East Gates improvement. Had they rested on their oars, it is impossible to say how long an unsightly old play-house and weighing machine might have obstructed the site gracefully occupied by the Clock Tower of decorated Gothic, with its quartet of statues representing those generous benefactors, Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, 1258; William de Wyggeston, 1500; Sir Thomas White, 1546; and Alderman Gabriel Newton, 1760. Though not a resident of the neighbourhood, I gladly gave my mite to the subscription necessary to induce the Council to accede to the undertaking, and I hope men interested in localities which yet remain inconvenient and unsightly will follow the example which made "Burton's Hobby" an accomplished fact -a "thing of beauty" and a "joy for ever." Amongst streets "improved" by the Corporation, Mr. Storey notes Cart's Lane, Castle Street, The Hollow, Bath Lane, Dunn's Lane, Bond Street, High Street, St. Nicholas Street, Northgate Street, the Holy Bones, Newarke Street, Loseby Lane, Northampton Street, (entrance to London Road) Humberstone Road, the Fosse Road, Bishop Street, Bowling Green Street, Horsefair Street, and



Granby Street, which latter embraced the purchase of two warehouses from Mr. Crick at a cost of £7500 and the removal of the fronts at a further charge of £1712 5s. 6d. The wooden pavement in Granby Street also cost the Corporation £1430 12s. 6d. and the purchase of Mr. Davis's property in St. Martin's, part of the garden of which was added to the street, amounted to £3400. But this is only a tithe of what remains to be achieved. for do not pedestrians limp wearily every day over rude miles of "petrified kidneys?" Further, there is to be remarked the construction of Park Road, the widening of Victoria Road and Hinckley Road, and the lowering of Knighton Hill, costing altogether some £4000. Yet another expensive scheme is that for improving the junction of Gallowtree Gate and Halford Street, in which, for purchases of property and compensations, no less a sum was invested than £33.376 8s. 2d. For compensation to secure the property necessary for the Bath Lane improvement the sum of £3,785 was expended. Let us hope that for the further imminently exigent improvements to the West Bridge and Bow Bridge, the designs will not be "hand-to-mouth," but characterised by wise forethought and generous breadth of view. In such undertakings parsimony leads to eventual waste of public money, without opportunely securing public advantage and convenience. Such, I take it, is the moral to be drawn from the fact that in 1843 there was an expenditure of £4310 on the West Bridge, and as recently as 1863 of £932 on the Bow Bridge, while these antiquated structures can now be regarded as nothing better than traffic-chokers and flood-accumulators.

MARKET ACCOMMODATION.

Much has been spent on market accommodation, but who can affirm that it is worthy of our noble Market Place? The Corn Exchange itself, with its hideous "bridge of sighs" in front, is no credit to the Metropolis of Leather and Elastic. One almost marvels to hear of the subsequent expenditure of £6,000 in the purchase of a portion of the site of the present Fish Market; while it is difficult to see where the £2810 15s. 9d. went in 1877, when the Fish Market was extended and improved. Who will be the benefactor of skilful conception and indomitable

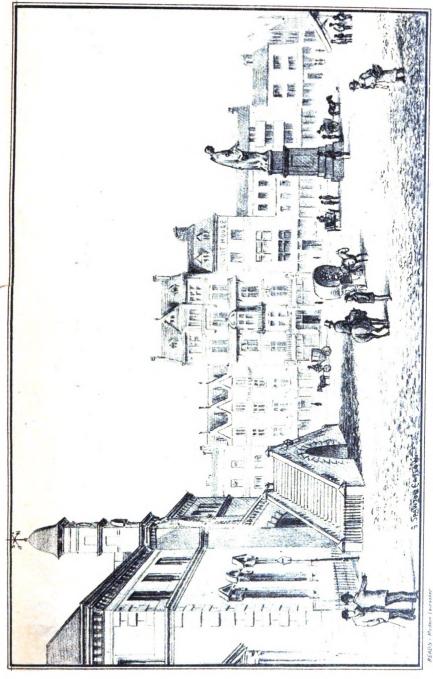
energy to carry out a creditable market scheme? He will deserve and no doubt receive a commemorative statue, to keep "the Duke" company in his melancholy lacquered solitude, never relieved except by the occasional uncomely company on "off days" of piled heaps of market stalls with their timber limbs in the air.

SEWAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The recent "agony," Alderman Winterton and others have experienced, in the effort to evolve a prospectively efficient sewerage scheme is not of recent origin. "The floods are out" has been a chronic cry in Leicester from time immemorial whenever the windows of heaven were opened and the waters came tumbling down from the neighbouring hills. The country has been periodically cut of from the town and in the low-lying districts of the latter the residents have had to take refuge in the upper storeys of their dwellings, while owners of vehicles or boats—the only lucky dogs in the contingency—reaped a rich harvest of copper in conveying to and fro people bent on serious business, or thoughtless boys and girls ambitious to be baptized in the splashing spray of unfeathered oars or revolving wheels. Then, alas! the fever-fiend stalked in the wake of the waterfiend, and that impetus was given to the rate of mortality, especially amongst the infant population, which has given Leicester an unpleasant pre-eminence in the reports of the Registrar-General—a pre-eminence for which I shall not in my technical ignorance pretend to account. "When Doctors differ, who shall decide?"

As long ago as 1848, when the Corporation became the Local Board of Health, Mr. Thomas Wicksteed, an eminent civil engineer, was requested to report on a thorough system of sewerage for the Borough and his plan with modifications, at the instance of the late Mr. Robert Stephenson, C.E., was subsequently adopted. The "Leicester Sewerage Act" was passed by Parliament in 1871 sanctioning a system of main sewers to discharge the effluent water into the river Soar and the sale or lease of the sewage to a Company for a term of years. The main sewers cost £24,800 8s. 7d., additional main sewers £3,449





11s. 5d. and subsidiary sewers £12,750. Probably no more condensed and yet clear description of the treatment of sewage in Leicester could be given than that from the pen of Mr. Storey: "The sewage (now about seven to eight million gallons a day) is carried to an artificial outfall formed by the engine-well at the works near Leicester Abbey; a flood sewer is laid down for carrying off storm waters into the tail water of the Belgrave mill: and the sewage is raised by steam power into reservoirs or tanks, placed at a sufficient elevation to allow the effluent water to flow into the river. The engines are so constructed that at each stroke a pump is worked which causes a certain proportion of the cream of lime to be mixed with the sewage water, thereby occasioning a rapid precipitation of the solid matter held in suspension, and which, with a retarded flow through the reservoir. is intended to effect the deodorization of the effluent water. The solid matter, which is precipitated in the reservoirs or tanks, is worked back by an Archimedean screw, and thence raised by a series of buckets into troughs at the top of the building, whence it is conveyed by gravitation to other tanks where it remains until the supernatant water is drained off—the solid matter is then disposed of as manure."

This is substantially, though not in every detail Mr. Wicksteed's plan, which with all the fervour of a poet he described as certain to realise for the private company, whose adviser he was, £10,000 per annum for the first 15 years, £20,000 per annum in the second quindecennial period.

The best laid schemes o' mice and men

Gang aft agley;

and the shareholders of the company were fain, when the subscribed capital was gone, to surrender their lease and hand over their buildings and machinery to the Corporation for nothing. The Corporation, too, have found that the "high-dried" manure has not met with a ready sale at 1s. (instead of the poetical engineer's price of £1) per ton. As Mr. Storey wisely puts the position of the Corporation, "the costs of maintaining the works, notwithstanding the acquisition of the buildings and machinery without payment, has for the last few years averaged £200 per annum."

Thus, the year 1869 was reached and Mr. Baldwin Latham,

C. E., reported, by request, on the application to Leicester of a system for the disposal of sewage matter by irrigation owners applied to, however, asked too much for the land necessary to test the system and the idea was abandoned. Four vears more passed, and premiums of 200 guineas and 100 guineas were offered for the first and second best schemes for dealing with Urban Sewage and the flood waters. Seven competitors responded, Mr. J. B. Everard, of Leicester, taking the first prize and Mr. Grant, of Swansea and Nottingham, the second prize. A combination of those schemes was adopted by the Council. on recommendation of the Highway and Sewerage Committee. Parliamentary powers were sought for its execution at a cost of £83,000. In the spring of 1874, Major Tulloch interposed a report strongly condemnatory of the Sewerage portion of the proposal "on the grounds that considerable annual expense would still have to be incurred in pumping the sewage, and that the low parts of the town would not be materially benefitted by it, and further that the filtration area was too near to a populous and increasing district (Belgrave); and consequently, this part of the scheme was withdrawn."

In 1875, the Rural Sanitary Authority having been unsuccessfully approached to take their share in a joint scheme, Sir Joseph Bazalgette, with the lavishness of conception which is one of his characteristics, proposed to the Borough the purchase of about 800 acres of land between Barkby Wharf and Sileby Mill for the process of irrigation, and the extension of the present sewers to that point, where what he termed a free out-fall could be obtained at an approximate estimated cost of £300,000. Our conscript fathers, rightly or wrongly, had not the courage to "face" this bold and lofty "music" "for the improvement of the drainage and sewerage of the Borough and the prevention or mitigation of basement flooding," but contented themselves with a few make-shifts.

In 1877 they bought ten additional acres of land near the Sewage Works for £7000; constructed four supplementary settling tanks at a cost of about £2000; erected a new engine-house costing £4500; and invested £1600 in an additional pumping engine. With these arrangements, supplemented by the savoury adjuncts of pail closets and sanitary vans, we must e'en

hold our noses and open our mouths in expectation of the next good thing in scavenging and deodorization the gods may send us. Meantime, the first section of the Borough Surveyor's hopeful scheme of independent storm water sewers "to empty themselves direct into the River at various points" is progressing. For the entire scheme, powers have been obtained to borrow £12,000, and the cost of the first section is estimated at £3689.

FLOOD WORKS.

But the Municipal piece de resistance—sufficient to furnish a remainder "bone of contention" in the Hall for generations—is known as the "Flood Works," which were authorised by "The Leicester Improvement Drainage and Markets Act, 1868," the time for the execution of which was extended by "The Improvement Acts of 1874 and 1876." The works contemplated, or in course of execution, are, briefly, as follow:—

An overfall weir, at the junction of the Old Soar and the Union Canal; widening and deepening the River thence to the Old Soar Corner.

An overfall weir and new sluices at the Old Soar Corner.

A new channel from the Old Soar Corner to Braunstone Gate Bridge and altering the Bridge to the capacity of the new channel.

Altering the levels and extending the weir across the Soar near Castle Mill.

Widening and deepening the bed of the Bow Bridge Branch from Braunstone Gate Bridge to the junction with the Canal adjoining Swannington Railway.

Widening and deepening the River and Canal from Old Soar Corner to Castle Mill Weir.

Substituting piles for solid towing path under Cow Lane Canal Bridge and West Bridge.

Widening Leicester Navigation near office of Swannington Railway.

New weir with sluices on the Navigation near Whitwick Dock; new cut from the Weir to the Soar near North Bridge; and a new Bridge to carry the Railway over; and weir at towing path over North Mill Goit.

New weir in lieu of stone weir between Saint Margaret's Pasture and Abbey Meadow.

New weir with sluices near Abbey Mill sluices, and a weir in extension of Swan's Nest Weir.

A culvert from the meadow, near the Swan's Mill to Castle Mill Weir.

A watercourse from the watercourse Bridge on Saint Mary's Wharf Road into the Old Soar near the Stone Weir.

Extension of new sluices for the Stone Weir and widening and deepening the Old Soar from the Stone Weir to the Castle Mill.

Removing Castle Mill Weir and Lock and island adjacent; deepening River from the Weir to the Mill; altering level of Canal from towing-path bridge near Old Soar Corner, to Swan's Mill Lock and reconstructing lock.

New lock on Leicester Navigation near Belgrave Gate Wharf, widening and deepening Navigation between Wharf and Belgrave Mill and reconstructing lock there.

Widening and deepening the Soar between Abbey Corner and junction of Navigation, near Swan's Nest Weir, and constructing a new Flood River from the Weir to the Soar, near Belgrave Mill.

Widening and deepening the Willow Brook from the Midland Railway arch to the angle of the Brook between Wood Street and Leadenhall Street.

New cut thence, across the Little Leroes, to join the Navigation at the Bridle Road Bridge leading from Sydney Street to the Abbey Meadow.

Diverting St. Margaret's Ditch from where it crosses Belgrave Road to a point 70 yards north-east from its present outfall.

Widening and deepening the Soar between Abbey Corner and North Mill sluices and weir.

Widening, deepening, and making navigable the "Floods Course" from the Pasture Stone Weir to the Weir known as "Tumbling Bay."

The importance of the project, and the erroneous ideas as to

its scope which prevail, must be my excuse for this brief, if rather dry, summary of the details. Anyone with this book in hand may now intelligently trace the area of the scheme over the birth of which Alderman Winterton has laboriously-and not with too much thanks—presided. The works are, as vet. little beyond the threshold. The deviation of the River Soar from Swan's Nest weir to Belgrave mill has been completed at a cost of £2,500. The Corporation have acquired the Castle mill for £4.191 15s. and Belgrave mill for £5,400. In 1876, the Flood Channel from the Whitwick Dock to the North Bridge was completed, the sum expended being £4,065 9s. 5d. and for £600 more the Iron Bridge was constructed connecting Mr. Paget's land with Soar Lane. The year 1877 and 1878 saw the excavation of the Island near the Castle Mill, by which the pressure on the River was much eased in that vicinity; and also a considerable widening and deepening of the water course between Braunstone Gate Bridge and the Bow-Bridge. Through the employment of labourers, thrown idle in the disastrous winter of 1878-9, considerable progress was made in the improvement of the Willow Brook, comprising the substitution of a Bridge for the ford at the end of Willow Bridge Road. Terms of compensation—the pecuniary total of which amounts to £8,060—were arranged by which the "water rights of the North mill," were acquired; and other arrangements enabled the Corporation to have "the whole length from Belgrave to North mill included in the contract, in fact," in Mr. Storey's words, "to include by mutual arrangement the entire abolition of the back water course from North Bridge past Messrs. Bowmar's works to the Tumbling Bay." The contract price. (including £6,500 chargeable to the Park Formation Fund) amounts to £32,375 14s. 8d. It would be ungracious and premature on my part to attempt a criticism of works now in progress—the first sods of which the Mayor (Alderman Stretton) turned, on 26th May, 1879; but I was gratified to see so stern and unbending a critic of the Corporation Flood Works as Councillor Gimson, at an Oddfellows Dinner, at the Bull's Head, on Friday, 12th November, 1880, thawed into using the following words, which from him may be construed into an eulogium:-"The flood scheme is a large but, I believe, an

effective one and the slight addition it will entail to the rates should not, I think, be complained of."

THE PEOPLE'S PARK.

Perhaps it would be rash as yet to designate the coming Abbey Meadow Park "Our Corporation Folly," but the very large expenditure going on and contemplated in that dank, diphtherial, and febrile spot positively gives me the shivers. I have not elsewhere seen that expenditure totalised, and the result of a rough calculation has taken me aback. Such figures as I have been able to put together may not be amusing, but I rather think they will be instructive to such ratepayers as may honour my little volume with their perusal. So here they are (as a careful accountant would write, "errors and omissions excepted"):—

Earl Dysart, for 92 acres, at £19 £17,480						
Remainder (about 22½ acres) of Abbey Meadow 4,500						
Extinction of tenant and commonable rights 2,800						
Saint Margaret's Pasture, 19 acres 2,500						
Extinction of commonable rights 380						
Great and Little Leroes, 2A. 3R. 7P 4,196						
Road from Sydney Street to Abbey Meadow 10,000						
Sydney Street and Abbey Corner Bridges and						
Boundary Wall 6,500						
Laying out 66 acres of Park and 10 acres						
Recreation Ground 8,500						
Total (exclusive of architectural works re-						
served for further consideration) £56,856						

Our descendants, 100 years hence, if the floods are then dried up, and if trees have then begun to grow decently, and if the town has then, by chance, extended largely in that direction, may thank us for our unexampled generosity; but it forcibly strikes me how much more wise and seasonable would have been the Municipal benevolence if it had divided the above £56,000 by seven and spent £8,000 in providing a suitable Recreation

Ground for each ward in the town. However, it will be a proper climax to the policy which lost the town the Wharf Street Cricket Ground, Danett Hill Park, and Birstall Hall Park, to bury, or rather drown, a mint of money in the Swamp of Tumbling Bay. Supposing it to have been desirable to have acquired the Abbey Meadow and Saint Margaret's Pastures, why not have converted it with cheap simplicity into a Race Course, and spent the balance in transforming Victoria Park into an Arboretum, with a grand Art Gallery within its gates, that would have been the admiration of visiting strangers and the glory of Leicester, the eyes of whose denizens are now wide open to the desirability and necessity of æsthetic culture?

GAS AND WATER SUPPLY.

The efforts of modern English Corporations to secure the health of their constituents by hygienic treatment of sewage are barely superior to the other efforts to furnish an economical supply of good artificial light and pure, sparkling water. When we freely criticise the administration of our representatives, we should not, at the same time, ignore or undervalue the enormous and arduous labours they voluntary undertake on our behalf; nor should we seek to examine too microscopically whether the motive impelling to the assumption of the representative burden is patriotism or personal ambition.

The Leicester Gas Company had a comparatively small beginning in 1821 with 24 original shareholders, who held their first meeting in the Saracen's Head, on the 18th of April of that year. The authorised share capital was gradually increased, by Act of Parliament, from the primal limit of £24,000 to £220,000 in 1873 (with powers to borrow other £55,000) and to nearly half a million five years later. The first year's consumption of two million feet may now be multiplied by 300. Till 1824—a thing now unexampled in private gas undertakings—the shareholders had to be content without a dividend. Mr. Storey gives the following very interesting table of the comparative price of artificial illumination, in Leicester, for half a century:—

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The price of gas in 1829 was 12/- per 1000 feet.
It was reduced in 1834 to 10/6
                   1839 to
                              7/6
                              5/10
                   1847 to
          ٠.
                    1850 to
                              4/8
                              4/2
                   1860 to
                   1865
                         to
                              3/6
                   1870 to
                              3/-
                              2/10
                   1877 to
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In the last-named year, the vaulting ambition of the prosperous Company aspired to parliamentary power for raising a quarter of a million additional capital and acquiring 34 acres of land (184 belonging to the Corporation) on Aylestone Road for the erection of extensive new Gas Works to supplement the old establishment whose capacity of supply would in a very short period prove inadequate to meet the yearly increasing demand. The late Alderman Grimsley, in the first instance, with Alderman Winterton (then Mayor) and Alderman Stafford deserve credit for taking the first steps to divert a profitable public undertaking to the advantage of the community. After considerable negotiation, the Share Capital of the concern—amounting to £476,651 12s. 6d-was converted into Corporation 4 'per cent Debenture Stock for which the shareholders received Stock certificates, and the concern was taken over, in terms of an Act of Parliament which received the Royal Assent on the 4th July. 1878, with a reserve fund to the credit of the new capital account of over £42,000. On 31st December following, the Gas Committee had an excellent sum to their credit, on the half-vear's working, which was applied as follows:-

	£	s.	d.
Interest on Mortgage Debt and Dividends			
Debenture Stock	11,143	9	8
Stamp Duty on Transfer of Undertakin	g		
to Corporation	2,446	15	. 0
Proportion of Cost of Act of Parliamen	t 350	0	0
Sinking fund for half-hear for redemp)-		
tion of Debenture Stock	1,002	0	0
Reserve fund	5,000	0	0
Applied in reduction of District rate	2,344	14	8
	£22.286	19	4

'n

Well, the Aylestone Road works, -estimated to cost some £130,000 — have been christened with champagne. monster gasometer has been periodically inflated and emptied, and we should be enjoying the best possible gas at the lowest possible price. This is the prime object the Committee are bound to set before themselves. The reserve fund is at the maximun of £5000 permitted by the Act of Parliament; great works of construction are surely at an end for some years to come; and, though a slight reduction of District rate may be desirable as a consideration to rate-pavers who are not gas-consumers, the people of Leicester, in the heart of the Midland coal-field, have a right to expect to lead the van of English towns in beauty and cheapness of artificial illumination. Bright streets, bright shopwindows, bright domestic rooms at a moderate price and with civility from officials who are the people's servants—these should be the outward and visible signs of efficient Gas management for the ratepayers by the ratepayers' representatives. Any 13 of the most talented "conscript fathers" could in this channel find scope for the brilliant play of all their energies; but, alas! alas! the Gas Committe, instead, are off at a tangent after a "fad" and in lamentable collision with legitimate tradesmen in the vain hope of inflating gas-consumption by trading in gasstoves. I shall be very proud of the Gas Committee when they have the moral courage to acknowledge an error that has been lucidly pointed out to them, and when they "stoop to conquer" by making "a masterly movement to the rear."

WATER SUPPLY.

Five and thirty years ago, the unfortunate denizens, destitute of private wells, had to depend for their water supply on water carriers whose tariff was "a ha'penny a pail." Nor would aqua pura have been available, even in this way, but for the wise beneficence of Queen Elizabeth who, in granting the Corporation the materials of old St. Peter's Church, imposed this condition amongst others, that they should bring a "conduit" of water into the town. This they did by laying pipes from a spring near Conduit Street to an octagonally covered cistern in the Market place, and the supply provided for

6,500 inhabitants in 1573 was not augmented in 1845 when the population had increased eight-fold—this too with private wells deleteriously charged with sulphate of lime. To supply the clamant cry for pure water in a town often suffering from the affliction of

Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink,

a private company applied for and obtained an Act of Parliament. They proposed raising a capital of £150,000 in shares of £25—with an annual subsidy from the Borough rates of £1,600 -and contemplated buying lands at Thornton from the brooks and streams of which they would have drawn the needed supply. Investors failed to "bite," however, and until 1851 the cry for water was unappeased. In that year, the Corporation came to the rescue of the Company, and it was arranged that out of the capital of £80,000, the Local Board should take 680 shares of £25 each, leaving 2520 to be subscribed for by the public; on which latter the Local Board guaranteed—as soon as 20 miles of pipes were at work—a minimum dividend of 4 per cent. for 33 years; the Board, on the other hand, securing in perpetuity one moiety of the net profits over £4 10s. per cent. An Act, in conformity with those conditions, received the Royal Assent; 80 acres (having a watershed of 2850 acres) were purchased at Thornton; a resevoir was constructed, pipes were laid; and on 21st December, 1853, pure water flowed into Leicester. the supply was not adequate to meet the wants of a rapidly increasing population, especially in such extraordinary droughts as were distressingly experienced in 1863 and 1864. Accordingly, in May, 1866, the Capital of the Company was raised to £200,000 by an Act of Parliament, which also gave authority to borrow a further sum; 180, acres (with a watershed of 4,400 acres) were purchased from the Earl of Stamford; the Bradgate Resevoir was constructed and piping was laid into Leicester. So profitable was the result that the Corporation (on 30th June, 1878) had received, besides a dividend on their shares, the sum of £17,030 6s. 1d. out of surplus profits, in addition to recouping the payment of £7,758 14s. 11d. made under their guarantee, while the Company was in unprofitable infancy, to secure to the shareholders a minimum dividend of 4 per cent.

But to return. The Company applied to Parliament in

November, 1874, for powers to increase their Capital by a further sum of £100,000, and also sought—as a boy severs himself from his mother's apron string—to block the Corporation from further participating in surplus profits, on account of their early guarantee of dividend. That very comfortable assurance to shareholders in a doubtful Company seemed in their prosperity to cling around their necks like a veritable "Old Man of the Sea." After a succession of acrimonious contests, which it is well to forget when the combatants have shaken hands, a purchase of the Water Undertaking was effected by the Corporation, on 2nd October, 1877. The concern was taken over from 1st July, 1878, on the basis of 7 per cent. on the Share Capital; in other words the holder of every £25 share received a certificate of £43 15s. Corporation 4 per cent. Debenture Stock. The purchase amounted to £450,000, for the extinction of which the annual sinking fund is £1,534; while the annual interest charge amounts to £18,097 7s. 9d. The clear annual profit is an average of £3,000 per annum, but the important point is that the Corporation holds in hand the mightiest of all engines of sanitation-a magnificent supply of water-and the ratepayers have only themselves to blame if it is not liberally used in preserving life and health, aiding manufacturing progress, and, in the event of fire, saving property.

THE CEMETERY.

One of the most creditable achievements of the Corporation of Leicester—either from a Christian or a Sanitary point of view—was the securing of Parliamentary powers to establish a General Cemetery, "one half of the ground to be consecrated for the interment of persons according to the rites of the Church of England, and the other half for the interment of Dissenters." This is a better method than any Burials Bill, however Liberal, for preventing the "Battle of the Creeds" by the graves of the departed. Our beautiful Cemetery on the Welford Road, fit resting place for

Hands that the rod of Empire might have swayed
Or waked to ecstacy the living lyre,
consisted at first of 17 or 18 acres of picturesquely rolling

ground, belonging to the Corporation. The artistic design chosen (the cost of carrying out which, exclusive of the value of the land, was nearly £13,000) was that of Messrs. Hamilton and Medland, Worcester. The first stone was laid on the 19th June, 1842, by Mr. William Biggs, the then Mayor. The Church of England portion was consecrated on the 4th of September, 1850, while Mr. Thomas Nunneley was Mayor, by Dr. Davies. Of that impressive ceremony, at which I was present, a boy of twelve, I retain the most vivid recollection. Since the first interment on the 28th of June, 1849, some 65,000 wayfarers "after life's fitful fever, sleep well" in this pleasant spot.

From 1869 to 1876 about a dozen more acres by instalments were added to the Cemetery, making its present area about 30 acres; the various Church of England portions being consecrated by Dr. Magee, Bishop of Peterborough, on the 21th of January, 1870, in the Mayoralty of Mr. Geo. Stevenson; and on the 30th May, 1876, in the Mayoralty of Mr. Wm. Winterton. The last Sunday interment took place in September 1873, the Corporation having previously given three months' notice that the Cemetery would be closed against Sunday interments. Canon Vaughan, here as elsewhere, has exhibited his public spirit and devotion to artistic beauty, for it is by his efforts that the Consecrated Chapel has been glorified by the dim religious light of a stained glass window, and with him also originated the decoration of the Chancel; the work costing £250.

Perhaps in no way could one estimate more accurately the progress of public taste in Leicester than by visiting the old graveyards of the various denominations and afterwards taking a walk through the General Cemetery. In the older church-yards will be found, almost without exception, irregular rows of sombre-looking slate grave-stones, on the fronts of which time has laid his blighting hand in defacing paint and gold. The backs of these stones have the appearance of a disorganised regiment of black-boards placed upright, and a glance at them gives the death-blow to all lively feeling, notwithstanding the hopeful inscriptions on the other side. Any exception to this style is to be found in the ugly oblong box tomb, with a palisade higher than itself, apparently to hide from public gaze any little beauty that may lie in its execution.

In the General Cemetery, on the other hand, one can fancy oneself really treading on the holy ground of "God's Acre." First of all, it is "beautiful for situation," From the terrace in front of the Chapels, there is a splendid view of the town. with its background of Forest hills. In this respect it is scarcely rivalled by any Cemetery in the country. A stroll round its walks in the flowery months cannot fail to inspire the most despondent breast with the "pleasures of hope," while even in winter there is an emblem of immortality in every evergreen shrub. The General Cemetery is, indeed, a beautiful "City of the Dead," and has, since its opening day, served many of the purposes of a Public Park, being the only ornamental grounds. within the Borough, to which the inhabitants have access. The before mentioned gloomy slate head-stones are agreeably "conspicuous by their absence." Scarcely anywhere is a plain stone to be found, and the variety in style, colour, and execution is pleasing to a cultivated eye, especially if a visitor will commence with the first monuments that were erected. These will readily be discovered by entering at the Welford Road gates, and taking the third turning to the left. There can be seen embodied in stone the monumental ideas of the Leicester architects and stone-carvers of thirty years ago. The old box tombs are reproduced, and upright monuments of uncouth appearance, whose outlines approach deformity. In the midst of these will be found a monument inscribed to James Page, who died June 23rd, 1849, and was the first person interred in this Cemetery.

To descry at a glance the purer taste in necropolitan sculpture acquired in a single generation, one has only to look across the path to the beautiful Gothic structure distinguishing Mr. Councillor Neale's family burying-ground. Its graceful outline from the base to the finial is so much in contrast to the designs of the last generation that it must force itself on the least artistic mind that public taste in monumental work has made rapid strides during the last 30 years. This, too, is only one specimen amongst hundreds in other parts of the Cemetery. Indeed the multiform designs in stone, marble and granite are, in some spots, so grouped together as to mar the beauty of many an individual memorial which, if erected in a country churchyard, would at once become a centre of attraction. I

shall not attempt to discriminate farther, but my readers might do worse than spend an afternoon in the sweetly melaucholy pleasure of exploration and meditation among these modern tombs.

One novelty, however, I ought to mark. In the most recent marble work, the letters are, almost without exception, filled in with lead, thus ensuring permanency to the inscriptions. I was also interested in noticing a still greater novelty—a granite monument towards the Occupation Road, the letters on which were also filled in with lead. The metal is raised a little from the surface, thus giving a better effect than if cut off level; as, in that case, from the similarity of tone between the lead and the granite the inscription would scarcely have been legible. Of this process our townsman Mr. William Ball is the ingenious adapter, if not inventor. It is generally thought that leading in stone is of modern invention, but a perusal of Job XIX Chapter, 23 and 24 verses, will at once prove Solomon's truism that "there is nothing new under the sun." Those verses contain the very striking exclamation :-- "Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book. That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!" But one cannot explore a Cemetery without mingled feelings. does not, amid these monumental memorials, feel impressed with the contrasted uncertainties of all things sublunar?

> 'Tis thus with our life, while it passes along, Like a vessel at sea, amidst sunshine and song! Gaily we glide, in the gaze of the world, With streamers afloat and with canvas unfurled; All gladness and glory, to wandering eyes, Yet chartered by sorrow and freighted with sighs.

TOWN MUSEUM.

If the Literary and Philosophical Society now cultivate science and the belles lettres in dignified exclusiveness, they will ever deserve honour for forming the embryo whence sprung our Town Museum, which, although two-and-thirty years old, is yet only in early, if vigorous, infancy. From their two rooms in the New Hall emanated the influence which induced the Corporation,

almost immediately on its passing, to take advantage of the Act authorising Municipal Boroughs, with over 10,000 inhabitants. to establish Museums and levy a halfpenny per pound on the rateable value for their maintenance. In 1848, the Proprietary School Building and land on the New Walk, opportunely coming into the market, were acquired and adapted for Museum purposes, at the very moderate cost of £4,300. In 1873, the Lords of the Treasury authorised the appropriation, out of the sale of real estate, of £3,000 for the addition to the Museum of a large Lecture Hall and accommodation for the School of Art. Philanthropic townsmen subscribed a like sum of £3,000, which was afterwards increased by £300 in order to secure a desired improvement in the plans: and contracts tor the necessary works were entered into, the total reaching £5,699 13s. 4d., exclusive of furniture and fittings. The progress of the undertaking, however, opened the hearts alike of the Corporation and of private individuals. The former obtained the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury to use another £1,000 from the sale of real estate, and with further subscriptions the addition to the Museum was completed in January, 1877, for the sum of £7,591 16s, 1d., leaving £107 13s. 8d. to hand over to the School of Art towards the furnishing of their department. The way in which the Corporation and the wealthy public cordially cooperated is obvious from the money obtained from each source; the former granting £4,000, and the latter contributing £3,699 9s. 9d.

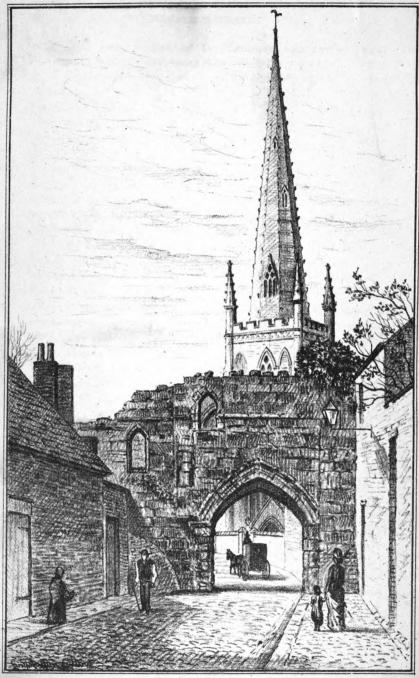
The management of the New Buildings was, on the 26th February, 1878, vested in the Museum Committee, under the chairmanship of the late Alderman Baines; under whom the further necessary improvements of a glass-covered annexe to connect the buildings, was carried out at a cost of some £700. In opening the winter series of Saturday Evening Free Lectures, on November 13th, 1880, Alderman Kempson gave such an interesting, succinct, and unimprovable inner history of the institution, that I have asked and obtained permission to use materials which are exceedingly valuable, having been amassed by the worthy Alderman, while watching over the Museum with a fatherly eye from its birth to its present robust adolescence.

The nucleus of the Museum was the scientific collection

which had been formed by the Literary and Philosophical Society and which was presented by the Society to the Museum, at its opening in 1849. Among the noble band, who formed the godfathers of this school of culture were Messrs. Hollings. Marshall, Harley, Berry, Ellis, Mott, Plant, Alfred Paget, Weatherhead and Dr. Noble. During 1850 and 1851, the departments of fossils and minerals received considerable acces-Two rooms were added in 1852 and 1853 and thither the Roman pavements were removed from the Cherry Orchard. The fine Saurian specimens from Barrow were contributed in 1854; at which date Lord Curzon gave a donation of dresses and weapons from South America. Various presentations to the large number of 125 were received in 1855 and in 1856 and in 1857 the Corporation were the donors of several cases illustrative of British ornithology; while Mr. A. Burgess contributed a collection of foreign birds and Mr. Saxton a typical Swedish elk. In 1859, there were several remarkable additions—a marble statue from Earl Howe, two busts from Alderman Stevenson and a magnificent specimen of the roebuck from the Prince Consort: while the Museum Committee invested in a series of sepulchral slabs illustrative of Egyptian archeology. The Literary and Philosophical Society proved their continued interest in their foster-child by spending in 1860 £113 on the Museum, including £45 on an Egyptian mummy from Thebes. How many since then, in that awe-inspiring presence, have recalled Horace Smith's address to the mummy he saw in Belzoni's exhibition!

And thou hast walked about (how strange a story!) In Thebes's streets three thousand years ago, When the Memnonium was in all its glory, And time had not begun to overthrow Those temples, palaces and piles stupendous Of which the very ruins are tremendous.

Speak! for thou long enough has acted dumby; Thou hast a tongue, come, let us hear its tune; Thou'rt standing on thy legs above ground, mummy! Revisiting the glimpses of the moon. Not like thin ghosts or disembodied creatures, But with thy bones and flesh, and limbs and features.



READ'S - Modern Lainester

Rupert's Tower in the Newarke,

COLES & CO. LEIGESTER

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If the tomb's secrets may not be confessed,
The nature of thy private life unfold;
A heart has throbbed beneath that leathern breast,
And tears adown that dusky cheek have rolled:
Have children climbed those knees, and kissed that face?
What was thy name and station, age and race?

Statue of fiesh—immortal of the dead!
Imperishable type of evanescence!
Posthumous man, who quit'st thy narrow bed,
And standest undecayed within our presence,
Thou wilt hear nothing till the judgment morning,
When the great trump shall thrill thee with its warning.

Why should this worthless tegument endure, if its undying guest be lost for ever? Oh, let us keep the soul embalmed and pure In living virtue, that, when both must sever, Although corruption may our frame consume The immortal spirit in the skies may bloom.

I quote these few verses to show the teeming thoughts that may be born of a sympathetic visit to the Museum, when the visitor takes with him—as Carlyle puts it—"not logic spectacles but an eye!"

In the same year, 1860, when this mysterious stranger arrived, Mr. Perry Herrick presented a roebuck from the hills of Perthshire and contributions were also made by the Earl of Londesborough, Lord Berners, the Rev. C. Berry, Mr. Bates. and Mr. Nevinson. In 1862, the "Lit. and Phil." again gave handsomely of their surplus to the Museum'and the year was rich in private contributions. A tiger from South America, a Polar bear from Greenland, head and tusk of a Narwhale and a portion of two Roman columns coming from the Vicar of St. Martin's, a stone coffin from the Governors of the Infirmary, and Roman antiquities dug up in Bond street from Mr. Fielding Johnson. This year was also notable as that of Alderman Stafford's chairmanship, when he inaugurated the Saturday evening lectures which have done so much to popularise science and encourage general scientific research. Next year, 1863, Mr. Reeve suggested the interesting purchase of books and pamphlets of the Commonwealth, and when the suggestion was carried out that gentleman prepared an analysis of the acquisition

which is altogether invaluable to students. Alderman Kempson goes on to say: - "Amongst the interesting objects added in 1864, is the portion of a tusk of the mammoth, found in the drift gravel in Sydney street, Belgrave-road. A number of rare and valuable Egyption relics in bronze was presented by Rev. G. L. Vaughan. Antiquities found in High street, a copy of the Doomsday Book, and a Bird's-eye view of Leicester in 1610, were added; a fine and rare bronze Fibula was presented by Mr. Thomas Viccars; a hand-book of the contents of the Museum was commenced, several parts published during the year, and for this we were chiefly indebted to Mr. Mott. In 1865, considerable additions were made. 114 specimens of shells were given by Mr. Hugh Cummins, and the Lords of the Treasury presented ten gold coins found at Stockerson. In 1866 the zoological department was enriched by additions, chiefly from Messrs. John Halford, C. J. Englis, J. T. Moore, Mott, and G. W. Allen. A handsome donation of books was given by Mr. C. H. B. Hambly, and several important purchases were made by the Philosophical Society. In 1867 Mr. John Halford contributed many valuable specimens from the Cape of Good Hope. The Museum also received from Messrs. Ellis valuable Roman antiquities found at Barrow, and placed in a handsome mahogany case. During this year the greatest gift ever bestowed was received, under the will of the late Mr. Bickley, of Melton. This gentleman, who had spent his life in making a collection of birds, which, for a private one, was probably the finest in the kingdom, being aware of its worth to students and lovers of natural history, left it to his county town, thus making the labour of his life conducive to the good of posterity. In 1872 Mr. Harrison was appointed curator, and six gentlemen from the town added to the Museum Committee-Mr. Thompson, Mr. Mott, Mr. Plant, the Rev. Mr Mackennal. Mr. Baker and Mr. H. T Chambers. This committee found matters far from satisfactory. A code of rules was framed, rooms were refitted, and other improvements made. In several departments good work was done under the honorary curators. In the geological collection a fine series of human skulls from the ancient fossil type, to those of recent date, together with flint and stone implements of prehistoric time, were properly

grouped. To the archeological department the late Mr. James Thompson gave much time and attention. He carefully classified our British antiquities, which still form an interesting feature in the Museum, and Mr. William Kelly, so distinguished by his antiquarian studies, is now at the head of this department. About this time, a valuable and important collection of antiquities, which had been collected by his father and himself, was presented by Mr. Joseph Goddard, including 30 bronze objects, 40 of bone, and 60 of pottery, chiefly obtained from excavations in Leicester. Mr. G. H. Nevinson also contributed many interesting antiquities. The names of both the Nevinsons will be long cherished for their scientific tastes and liberality. Robson, our artizan naturalist, made an interesting collection of Leicestershire water beetles, which was presented to the Museum. When Mr. Mackennal was appointed curator of the Meteorological Section, valuable instruments were purchased, careful observations made at fixed times daily; the results were forwarded to various stations, and Leicester has ranked as one of the important observatories. The Royal Society voted £50 to Mr. Harrison, who had distinguished himself by his geological investigations in Leicestershire, for the purpose of continuing his investigations, since which his publications on the geology of this district have been of value. In 1876 Mr. Harrison delivered a lecture on the study of local geology; rendered valuable service to the Philosophical Society; gave great assistance to the Saturday evening lectures; and assisted in the demonstrations at scientific lectures during the eight years he was curator. Museum Committee allowed science classes to be taught at the Museum from the commencement to the close of Mr. Harrison's engagement. For this work Mr. Harrison showed especial fitness, the number of certificates of success gained by his pupils at South Kensington exceeding 600. I regret the necessity for this useful work being discontinued, but the task of arrangement on which the new curator has to enter leaves no option. In 1873 Mr. George Baines was elected chairman of the Museum Committee, and so remained until his death. He gave much time and attention to the interests of the institution, was ever on the best of terms with the committee, and was greatly esteemed by his fellow-townsmen. A model, showing the formation of the

Leicestershire rocks and coals, which had been erected under the direction and inspection of Mr. Plant, had to be taken down when the new buildings were erected, and has since been rearranged under the direction of Mr. Mott. The model is now about 60 feet long, and in the centre nine feet high, intended to represent a section east to west across Charnwood Forest. This is an important work, worthy of attention and study. .The old lecture-room is now devoted to the geological and mineralogical collections, which have been re-arranged and re-mounted. Dr. Buck, the able curator, has given much time and attention to this work, and the public owe him a debt of gratitude. mineral collection has been much enriched by Mr. Harrison's frequent visits to Charnwood Forest. We have also to acknowledge our obligation to Professor Ramsay, director of the Government Survey, for a copy of the ordnance map of the northeastern corner of the county—the Belvoir district. The map of Leicester, on which is traced the supposed outline of the Roman town, indicating the places where various discoveries have been made, is worthy of notice. The large upper room will now be devoted to natural history. It requires entire re-arrangement, which will be a work of time, and will absorb a large portion of our available funds. It is my impression that Mr. Browne, our new curator, possesses both the knowledge and the industry required to carry out this important work in the most satisfactory manner, and I have pleasure in saying that I never before felt so hopeful of the success of the institution as I now do. The very handsome gift of New Guinea birds, presented by Mr. Octavius Stone, has been arranged in a case by Mr. Browne, and placed in the large room. Mr. Theodore Walker is also a scientific and much-valued contributor in this department. When the Roman pavements and antiquities are placed in the new annexe, this rather expensive addition will prove a source of very great interest." The splendid and invaluable microscope is the gift of "the old man eloquent," Mr. W. N. Reeve.

Worthy Alderman Kempson concluded his instructive historical lecture, with a hope, which I warmly echo, that many who heard him had, through the instrumentality of the Museum, acquired a love of scientific investigation and habits of application, and were prepared to hand down the benefits of culture in

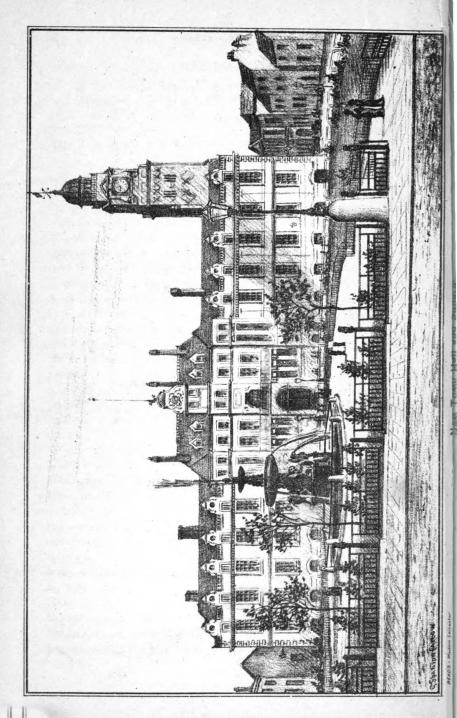
increasing volume to succeeding generations. The science gossips by the new Curator, on Thursday evenings, will be admirable helps to enable his regular hearers to raise themselves

On stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things: but, after all, the eyes of the people are turned to the Mayor (Alderman John Bennett) to signalise his second year of office by adorning the Museum with the climacteric glory of an Art Gallery. Without this to give form and beauty to research, Young Leicester will be slower than Young Nottingham and some other of our go-ahead neighbours to complete the cycle of æsthetic taste and culture; while the hands of our Art Students, (whose circumstances forbid much travel), will be crippled and their studies dwarfed. Writing of the Free Library, the late Mr. Stone said: - "I cannot forbear the expression of my gratification at the establishment of an Institution to which I have looked forward for many years—sometimes with hope, but more frequently with fear as to its early accomplishment-viewing it as a powerful agent in the promotion of the moral improvement and intellectual elevation of this Borough. It is fortunate that it should have been opened at a time when the adoption of a system of National Education will extend the power to appreciate, and the establishment of a Local School of Art will diffuse a taste for, the refining influences of Science, Literature and Art." How eloquently would Mr. Stone's voice, could it reach us across the flood that "at earth's boundary rolls its solemn tide"—how eloquently would his voice urge us to forget petty jealousies, to rise above "party, creed or faction," and to unite in a cordial pact, with an earnest determination to worthily crown the noble Town Museum with a noble Gallery of painting and sculpture, where we may realise, (on both Sundays and Weekdays), as Tennyson did in his "Palace of Art," that

Beauty, Good, and Knowledge, are three sisters, That dote upon each other, friends to man, Living together under the same roof, And never can be sundered without tears. And he that shuts Love out, in turn shall be Shut out from Love, and on her threshold lie, Howling in outer darkness. Not for this Was common clay ta'en from the common earth, Moulded by God, and tempered with the tears Of angels to the perfect shape of man.

FREE LIBRARY.

In Leicester, as in most other towns, the Mechanics' Institution, altogether admirable in its intention, was at first prosperous, then languished, afterwards received a fillip from the infusion of a strain of amusement, and eventually expired. Hall in Wellington Street-originally intended as a manufactory of Liberal artillery—was its home, from its birth in 1833 until its Alderman Stevenson has the distinguished honour of being the father of the Free Library movement in Leicester. The battle, long and arduous, was won at last, although the General does not seem disposed to take his rest, but like a true knight "sleeps beneath his plumed crest" ready to spring up and perform doughty deeds in other fields of progress. Though, on 25th September, 1862, the Corporation passed a resolution in favour of the establishment of a Free Library and appropriating the statutory halfpenny rate for its maintenance, it was not until 11th May, 1869, that practical steps were taken for the realization of the resolution. On the death of Mr. Thomas Sunderland, nine-tenths of the shares in the New Hall, Wellington Street, which he owned, were purchaseable by the Corporation, and the proprietors of the remaining one-tenth of the shares having consented to sell, the property was acquired by the Corporation for the extremely moderate price of £3,160. With £640 more spent on furniture and fittings, the good work was fairly launched; the news-room being opened on the 9th January, 1871, and the Library itself on Easter Monday, 1871, with a good selection of 9,000 volumes, comprising the free gift of the Library of the Mechanics' Institution and many valuable private contributions. How true is the ancient Latin proverb, "Calum non animum mutant, qui trans mare current!" The late Charles Clifton crossed the sea and died in the United States, but the change of sky had not changed his love for Leicester, for in 1876 the Library received from his executors a bequest of £250, by means of which large additions of books were made to the Reference Department. By a second bountiful bequest of £676 11s. 8d. from the late Mr. Henry Rice, the accommodation of this Department was enlarged to handsome proportions. The news-room (with a private table for ladies) is supplied with all the best periodicals and newspapers as they are published, and crowded by quiet readers from



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morning till night; the 6,000 volumes of the Reference Department are largely consulted by the studious; and the 20,000 volumes of the Circulating Department are assiduously sent out on their circumambient mission of diffusing intellectual light. It may be that the less serious forms of literature are most cultivated, but none will "despise the day of small things" to whom the fact has been brought experimentally home

That Truth in closest words may fail, When Truth, embodied in a tale, Shall enter in at lowly doors.

Mr. Edward Crabtree Lings is a model librarian, as everyone knows who has had occasion to consult the "Catalogue" and "Indicator" invented by him, which are to the mysterious shelves of the Library what a "Ready Reckoner" is to the puzzling science of arithmetic. Why "the fathers of the city" should shut us out from the treasures of the Reading and Reference Rooms, at hours when Churches and Chapels are closed, and public-houses are opened—"that's what puzzles the Quaker." I can only hope that the prejudices of the Corporation will disappear and their sympathies be "widened with the process of the suns." The inscription on the Free Library might well be—

Who loves not knowledge? Who will rail
Against her? Let her work prevail!
Let knowledge grow from more to more,
But more of rev'rence in us dwell,
That mind and heart, according well,
May make one music as before!

TOWN HALL.

Rich as the Old Guild Hall was and is in historic recollections of resolutions framed in the cause of liberty, and even sacred from the presence within its walls of Shakespeare in the representation of his own immortal plays, the business of the Corporation of Leicester had long outgrown its narrow limits. Debates and newspaper controversies, over the site, and whether the building should or should not contain a large hall as well as Municipal offices, kept the town at fever heat for many years. It being far from my purpose to revive the embers of extin-

guished controversies, suffice it to say that in September 1872, the site of the Old Cattle Market in Horsefair Street was finally agreed upon, and it was also settled that the Buildings should not include a large Hall, for which, however, space should be reserved. On the 22nd July, 1873, the plans of Mr. F. J. Hames, of London, after revision in conference with a Committee, were adopted and the work was carried out under the superintendence of the designer as architect. On the 3rd August 1874, in the mayoralty of Alderman Kempson, the first stone was laid with Mason'c ceremony amid great Municipal pomp, and then the Mayor's favoured guests lunched luxuriously at the Corn Exchange. On the 7th August, 1876, the Buildings having been completed, the Corporation assembled in the Old Guild Hall, and passed an eloquent retrospective and prospective resolution, which Mr. Storey publishes in his Manual as follows:—

"That having for between three and four centuries conducted the Public affairs of this ancient Borough in this Guildhall, the Municipal Council finds that the growth and prosperity of Leicester demand better accommodation for the transaction of the business of the Town, and before bidding a final adieu to this time-honoured building, and taking possession of the new Council Chamber and offices, in Horsefair Street, it wishes to place upon record its thankfulness for the prosperity which has for many years past been experienced by the inhabitants of Leicester, and for the public spirit which, amidst the various changes of party, has so animated the men who have governed the Borough as to have resulted in the acquisition of such rights and blessings of Local Government as most conduce to political freedom and social order. The Council honours the memory and sacrifices of all who have striven in this Hall, under whatever party-name, for the maintenance and extension of Municipal Institutions. It does not forget that within these old and now historic walls, England's greatest writer may have spoken and impersonated some of the undying creation of his genius, and there is unquestioned proof that here during a period full of peril to our Town and its liberties, patriotism was inspired to some of its noblest struggles. In closing its proceedings in this Chamber, the Council earnestly hopes that it may carry to the new Hall, that honourable zeal for the Public service which it

believes has filled the breasts of those who have enjoyed the distinction of a seat in this Chamber, and when future centuries shall have rolled away, it trusts that the glory of the New Hall may exceed that of the Old."

I cannot (although I was an eye-witness of the ceremony) more graphically summarise the pomp and circumstance of the subsequent proceedings than in the Town Clerk's words:--"The procession, which was formed at the Old Town Hall, consisting almost of every public body in the town, and in which the various Friendly Societies joined, was unquestionably the largest that has ever been witnessed in Leicester. On the Mayor arriving at the New Buildings he was presented with a Silver Key by Alderman Burgess, the Chairman of the Buildings' Committee, and after a special prayer had been offered by the Venerable Archdeacon Fearon in the Crown Court, his Worship delivered an address, and declared the Buildings open for the public purposes of the Borough. The Right Honourable Lord John Manners, Mr. Justice Mellor, and others, addressed those present in the Court, and speeches were made from the balcony to the remainder of the processionists, and thousands of others who had assembled in the Town Hall Square. A Council meeting was then held in the New Chamber, after which the Mayor entertained the Magistrates, Council and a large number of other guests, amongst whom were Lord John Manners, Mr. Justice Mellor, Sir Frederick Fowke, Sir Archdale Palmer, Sir Henry Halford, Sir A. B. C. Dixie, Mr. Peel, M.P., Mr. Clowes, M.P., Mr. Heygate, M.P., Mr. McArthur, M.P. and the Mayors of the neighbouring towns, at a Banquet, in the Corn Exchange. There was a grand display of Fireworks, by Brock, on the Victoria Park, in the evening, and the festivities closed with a Mayor's Ball in the Assembly Rooms."

The total cost, clock included, was £52,911 2s. 8d. For three years Mr. Loseby's delay in supplying the Clock was the standing joke of Theatres and Music Halls; but at last it displays hands to cover its face, and being fitted with nicely regulated machinery its bell now booms out the hours, and chimes the quarter-jacks with delightful exactness. All that was needed to complete the amenity of the Municipal Square, was that it should be artistically laid out—a consummation

secured at a cost of £1,200, in order that it might be a fitting enclosure for Mr. Israel Hart's munificent gift of the bronze lion-guarded fountain which is to the never-ending credit of the donor, and should be an incentive to wealthy citizens to follow the good example of doing something for the town in which they have prospered, while still they are in the land of the living. Still the cry is, "Where is the Town Hall?" I hope it will not be very long before it will be impossible for Echo to truthfully answer—"Where?"

CATTLE MARKET AND ABATTOIRS.

The removal of the Cattle Market from the Horsefair Street site was one of the improvements most indicative of our social advancement. Droves of beasts, half-maddened by a railway journey and the by no means gentle process of debarkation, were dangerous passengers through crowded streets. Slaughter houses, easy of access to public observation, were very demoralising to youth, inoculating them with a disregard of animal suffering, if not actually inciting them to cruel experiments on dogs, cats, and vermin. Moreover, the existence of a Cattle Market in the business heart of the town and a slaughter house in every butcher's back yard, not to say back kitchen, was equally insanitary and unsightly; while their presumed convenience was purely supposititious. The Corporation had not a ltttle opposition to face, in obtaining the necessary Act of Parliament which received the Royal Assent on 18th May, 1866. The new site selected—which is the present location—lies between the Aylestone and Welford Turnpike Roads, on Corporation land and the designs for the capacious buildings and conveniences came from the office of Mr. John Breedon Everard, Leicester. Act stipulated that the old Cattle Market should be removed within 5½ years from the date it received the Royal Assent, which would have expired on 18th November, 1871.

An excited season supervened, aggravated by the Memorials and viva voce agitation of butchers, cattle dealers and others who argued that the innovation would be injurious to the agricultural and trading interests of both town and county. Even these

classes will now concede that it was well the Corporation were legally bound hand and foot, and that the late Mr. Stone was compelled, as an honest official, to advise that the Market in Horsefair Street could not be legally continued there after the time mentioned in the Act for 1866 for the completion of the new Market. Mr. Stone's view was confirmed by the opinions of Sir Roundell Palmer and Sir John Karslake. But for this, weak-kneed members of the Corporation would have yielded to outside pressure and consented to the abandonment of an improvement which now—with a splendid train service from two lines of railway, and tramway conveniences, &c., &c.—meets with the entire approval, not only of the general public, but of the interested individuals most opposed to it. Detailed particulars of the contracts entered into and since carried out may be of interest:—

Mr. J. Walker, earthwork, draining and	£	8.	d.
paving	6,954	0	0
,, J. R. Ratcliffe, buildings	9,600	0	0
Messrs. Gimson & Co., iron work	6,827	0	0
" Robinson, gas fittings	140	7	0
Waterworks Co., piping and water			
service	190	0	0
Messrs. Gillett and Bland, Derby, for			
clock	175	0	0
Parliamentay Expenses and Sundries	3,729	11	10

Total Cost, (exclusive of value of land) £27,615 18 10

Two Borough Justices (Messrs. George Baines and T. W. Hodges) having, in terms of the Market Act of 1847, certified the Market to be fit and ready for use, the first market was held on the 6th April, 1872. In 1878, the Toll Committee sanctioned the erection of stabling and sheds for carts, which works were carried out by Mr. H. T. Mortimer, at a cost of £332 5s. Mr. Storey gives the following figures which show sufficient financial justification for the improvement:—

					Receipts.			Expendit		ditu	re.
					£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
6th Apri	l to 8	31st Au	gust,	1872	668	11	0		54	14	10
1st Sept.	1872	to $30th$	Aug.	1873	1,289	8	8		388	13	6
,,	1873	,, 31st	,,	1874	1,435	2	8		487	12	5
,,	1874	,,	,,	1875	1,463	5	5		534	18	8
,,	1875	,,	,,	1876	1,640	16	8		873	10	4
,,	1876	,,	,,	1877	2,011	1	0		1,230	12	11
,,	1877	,, 25th	Mar.	1878	1,141	9	8		393	5	1
26th Mar.	1878	,,	,,	1879	2,210	13	7		1,542	0	2

In the above statement of expenditure the annual sinking fund. for the reduction of money borrowed, is, of course, not included. To adequately estimate the scope and advantages of this striking improvement, one has to impress three distinct pictures on one's mind—the Horsefair site in its old hideous deformity, the existing handsome, commodious and every way convenient Cattle Market and the present cheerfulness and amenity of the Municipal Square, which, when the Police band is artistically playing choice music on a Tuesday evening in summer, is as kaleidoscopic in its brightness as a Continental pleasure garden.

PUBLIC BATHS.

They manage a good many things better in France, but the average people have a strange dread of our English ablutions, partial or entire. Many French ladies consider it sufficient to pass over their faces a damp towel stretched on the tips of their fingers, while others are satisfied with a bit of cotton dipped in a saucer containing equal parts of spirits of wine or brandy and water, or with a morsel of cold-creamed flannel gingerly applied to the face. If it were suggested that a baby should be immersed in a tub, instead of daintily daubed with a sponge moistened in a bowlful of warm water, mana would protest that she did not wish to bring up her child a l'Anglaise. Of course, there are classes amongst us, as in every country, whose personal habits will remain unsavoury, although they would not be slow to theoretically acknowledge that "clean-

liness is next to godliness." As a rule, however, the English relish for water is such that where domestic opportunities of entire ablution have been lacking, public decency has not seldom been outraged by river or canal-side scenes of primitive natation. Even such indecent efforts after a cleanliness, inculcated by science, Scripture and common sense, had to be confined to the summer months, and for a time it remained for private individuals to make some effort to supply the luxury of public baths, in which we have not, to the present hour, reached anything like the point of perfection common to ancient Greece and Rome. The worthy Leicester pioneer in this movement was Mr. J. P. Clarke, whose Baths in the New Walk were a cheap source of health and pleasure to the inhabitants for eight and twenty years from 1849.

On 12th July, 1876, the Corporation obtained the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury, to appropriate for Baths a portion of the ground in Bath Lane previously acquired from the Messrs. Donisthorpe. After several abortive attempts and much local agitation, a scheme, after the modified designs of Mr. J. B. Everard, was approved by the Council on the 1st January, 1879, and sanctioned by the Local Government Board in the week following. The Corporation accordingly borrowed £9,000, repayable with interest in 30 equal annual instalments, and the following contracts were afterwards entered into,—Mr. Everard having meantime discovered that the foundations would require £400 more than he at first estimated:—

Messrs. Bass and Langton, main l	£	s.	d.	
ing		9,100	0	0
Mr. Joel Whitmore, plumbing	• •	359	10	0
		£9,459	10	

The gentlemen's department contains a first-class swimming bath, 40½ feet in diameter, and three to six feet deep; a second-class swimming bath, 133 by 24 feet, and 2½ to 6 feet deep; and seven private or slipper baths, including one shower bath, with other necessary conveniences. The ladies' department contains nine private or slipper baths, including a shower bath, with the necessary conveniences. I must pause to ask—why not a swimming bath, as in Nottingham? There is, confessedly, no

more advantageous adjunct to the healthy physical education of the gentler sex than the regular practice of natation, and why should the "fathers of the city" withhold from the ladies of Leicester the facilities provided for their fathers, husbands, lovers, and brothers? Let the small space reserved for a ladies' swimming bath be, by all means, speedily occupied! Domestic and official accommodation for the attendant are included in the establishment, which was opened to the public on Monday, 14th July, 1879, 1,200 bathers patronising the swimming bath after two o'clock on that day. The architect, Mayor, and members of the Sanitary Committee, after the opening ceremony, enjoyed the hospitality of their chairman, and mutual congratulations were the order of the feast. At these, I am not disposed to carp: for the erection of these Public Baths is a decided and creditable step in advance on the road of sanitary progress. But it must never be forgotten that the process has to be repeated, and that early, in two or three districts to which Bath Lane, in the language of Mr. W. N. Reeve, is "an out-of-the-way place."

FEVER HOSPITAL.

Next only in importance to the proper measures for the prevention of disease is the Corporation duty of isolating and limiting contagion. In poor and crowded localities, this is a physical impossibility, if (the Infirmary being closed against them) patients are treated in their small, perhaps filthy, houses, where the healthy must live in the same room, if not sleep in the same bed, with the victims of epidemic-conditions equally dangerous to both the healthy and the infected. The "Red Terror" of 1870-71, when Scarlet Fever was decimating the "slums" of other towns, powerfully impressed the necessity for action on the minds of our municipal legislators. Dr. Crane (officer of health), Mr. Crossley, Dr. Sloane, Dr. Pearce, and the late Mr. Stephens (Borough Surveyor), in the spring of 1871, visited London as a deputation from Leicester Local Board, and, in conformity with their report, a building of corrugated iron, costing £2,200, was erected on two acres of the Close, No. 2, Freakes' Grounds, belonging to the Corporation, capable of receiving 36 patients. So serious was the smallpox epidemic in 1871-2, that a Corporation building in Friars' Road had to be adapted as a Temporary Hospital. The efforts of the Corporation to limit the ravages of this smallpox epidemic extracted no less a sum than £8,000 from the public purse, but no one would be selfish enough to grudge such expenditure to arrest the wanton course of a fiend that, if he does not extinguish life, blights beauty wherever he lays his loathsome finger.

It was true economy, also, to guard against a second surprise, by obtaining permission to borrow a further sum of £3,800, repayable by four equal annual instalments, by which means the Fever Hospital "now affords accommodation for 118 patients, and three classes of contagious diseases can be effectually isolated from each other, and treated at the same time." Little as the Corporation of Leicester are supposed to lean towards the teachings of the Earl of Beaconsfield, they are at least sufficiently alive to the vital force of his imperial motto for local government—Sanitas sanitatum; omnia sanitas!

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Humanity, bereft of reason, and walking the world with "aimless feet" is the most pitiable sight under the sun. No matter whether the cause is hereditary, or lies in personal excess, or is traceable to what is popularly known as the "visitation of God." the unfortunate lunatic is entitled to become the ward of a civilized community, so far as relatives are unable to discharge the functions of guardians. While the Borough had but a limited right to demand admission for those thus afflicted into the Leicestershire Asylum, the feelings of friends were harrowed and the hands of the Board of Guardians were hampered, when it became necessary to send lunatics to Asylums at a distance. The General Lunacy Acts, too, made it compulsory on Boroughs to provide sufficient accommodation of their own for their own insane. Appreciating the reasonableness of these considerations the Corporation of Leicester resolved to sever their connection with the County Asylum and, without any idea of deriving a profit from the investment, to provide a suitable Borough Asylum.

Up to 1876, the new Asylum at Humberstone was capable of receiving 300 inmates; the land on which it stood (about 30 acres) cost £11,981 and the buildings, furniture, clothing and other requisites £44,810. In 1876, the Corporation, purchased from Mr. William Brown, 4,000 square yards of grass land, in the vicinity of the Asylum, for £650, to be paid for out of the sale of real estate belonging to the Corporation. An extension of the laundry, with sleeping rooms in the upper storeys, was commenced in this year at an estimated cost of £1140. In 1878, a Hospital, for the treatment of Infectious or Contagious Diseases, was completed for the sum of £1917 6s. 3d.; the Laundry Extension was also finished, the total cost being increased to £1,950, in consequence of improving suggestions from the Lunacy Commissioners. An important step, for the benefit of "17 quiet patients," was taken in 1876, when the Committee of Visitors leased for seven years a cottage and garden on the Victoria Road and refitted it for about £150 to receive its inmates on 5th April, 1877. In May 1879, the Corporation purchased this property from the mortgagees. The Asylum has now about 400 inmates, and as one third of that number comes at present from Derby, Nottingham, and elsewhere, the Borough is in no danger of being unable to afford a local home for our own insane. The enlightened and humane treatment the afflicted receive, even to the extent of being allowed music and various recreations, and the large percentage of cures effected lead to the gratifying conclusion that the motto "Abandon hope all ye who enter here "-quite suitable for the "mad-houses" of last generation-would be a very inappropriate motto for Leicester Lunatic Asylum.

BOROUGH PRISON.

The "Prison Act, 1877," is an extraordinary monument of the centralising tendencies of the Legislature, which local bodies will be wise to resist as opportunity occurs. By that Act, the Borough Prison was, without compensation, transferred to and vested in the Government, while the Corporation remained liable for an unredeemed debt of £7,247 8s. In 1878,

the Home Secretary notified the Clerk to the Borough Justices that after 1st June of that year the Borough Gaol would be used exclusively for Military Prisoners. Then the Corporation respectfully memorialised the Home Secretary that, as Mr. Storey puts it, "if it should be deemed expedient to continue the use of the building as a Military Prison, he (the Home Secretary) would advise some compensation to be made for the loss sustained to the Borough." This produced from Mr. Cross a letter on 29th March, 1879, announcing that he had decided to close the prison and giving the Corporation the option of purchasing at the prescribed scale—or £120 in respect of each prisoner for whom cell accommodation had been provided—amounting to £10,382 8s. The Corporation closed with the offer, and are now in possession of an important ground area of about 4,250 square yards. The grave question is now ahead-What will they do with it?

EXTENSION OF BOROUGH BOUNDARIES.

The brief notices I have given of Corporation schemes and improvements show "something attempted, something done," and a great deal more waiting for accomplishment. much more is attempted, one "burning question," which Councillor Thomas Wright has been the first to propound, ought to be cleared out of the way, namely:—the Extension of Borough Boundaries. Stoneygate, Belgrave, and Aylestone Park are so closely identified with Leicester that their statutory incorporation is a sine qua non to the rectification of ward boundaries. improved thoroughfares, a perfect system of sanitation, drainage, and police, and a full utilisation of the gas and water supply. The representatives will deserve well of their constituents who, throwing vacillation to the winds, face the matter with an indomitable determination to have it settled on a scale broad and wide enough to prevent the subject being reopened for at least another half century. My earnest hope is that in the imminent crisis, Mr. Joseph Gordon, the new Borough Surveyor, may prove "the right man in the right place." As Tennyson has sung of England, so it might fitly be sung of Leicester:—

A Town of settled Government, A Town of high and old renown, Where freedom broadens slowly down From precedent to precedent.

LEICESTER CHARITIES.

GREEN COAT SCHOOL.

Like my father and uncle before me, I am indebted for three years' grounding in a commercial education to the benefaction of Alderman Gabriel Newton, successively wool-comber, landlord of the Horse and Trumpet and retired gentleman. cannot do better than reproduce, by permission of that talented medico, Dr. Barclay's reference to that worthy in a lecture delivered before the Literary and Philosophical Society. Alderman Newton, though thrice married, finding himself childless through the death of an only son, "determined," says Dr. Barclay, "on bestowing his wealth in charity and selected education as his object, and all his schemes were suggested by something bearing on it. He was Mayor in 1732, and seems to have been a very cross old gentleman and to have met with much opposition in his projects. We find him offering to rebuild the south front of St. Mary's church, on condition of space being accorded for his charity school boys, but this was rejected. Again he offers to rebuild Trinity Hospital, then in a very ruinous state, in return for accommodation for his boys in St. Mary's, but this too was declined. He was eccentric in his views, and most particular about the proper conduct of other people. If a clergyman did not follow out the rubric, especially if he did not read the Athanasian creed on the appointed days, the Alderman was down upon him in the vestry. If he caught boys or men doing anything they ought not to do in St. Martin's churchyard, he caned them incontinently. We read in Throsby, 'Mr.

Philip Hackett, the then parish clerk and he fought once in the belfry about Mr. Hackett's boy being irregular in ringing the bell. He broke his cane over the clerk's head, for which the clerk kicked him down the stairs.' However, he founded and endowed a most valuable charity, that known as the Green Coat In 1760 he executed a deed and enrolled it in Chancery, stating that as it had pleased God to endow him with a plentiful fortune, and to take away his only son, he was desirous to settle a great part of his substance to charitable uses, considering the religious education of children the most extensive branch of charity; that he was desirous of promoting the due reading of the creed of St. Athanasius, which he considered the completest body of Divinity ever composed since the time of the Apostles. He proceeds to give lands and tenements—(let it be remembered that this again was like all real charities, a life gift), the rents of which were to be devoted to the clothing and education of poor boys, being children of parents belonging to the Established Church in Leicester, Bedford, Buckingham, Hertford, Huntingdon, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, St. Neots, Barwell, and Earl Shilton. He further bequeathed estates, the produce of which was to be applied to apprenticing poor boys, preference being given to those of the school. He again adds a penal clause that no town, parish, hamlet or place, should receive any benefit from this donation where the creed of St. Athanasius was not read. or where the boys were not permitted to intone the responses, and the Mayor and Corporation of Leicester were appointed the proper judges, whether the Athanasian creed had been duly read and the responses rightly intoned. These funds produced at the time of the Alderman's death £211. Leicester had 35 boys, and each of the other places 20 or 25. The funds have never, like the others, been tampered with, and now produce £1,100 a year; so that the school in Leicester, which is admirably conducted, has been increased to 120 boys, who are still selected from the upper poor class. Grants have also been made to Hinckley, Lutterworth, Claybrook and Lubbenham. In 1808 the school was rebuilt on its old site in St. Nicholas' churchyard. Two or three years ago the funds admitted of a new srhool being built, which was erected in St. Martin's parish and has recently, by the removal of Grey Friars' house, become visible to passers by. It is of Perpendicular Gothic, and is a very unexceptionable piece of architecture-red brick, faced with The rooms are large and lofty, well ventilated and well adapted for their purpose, while it is highly ornamental as a building; and one of the cheapest buildings erected in the town, having cost only £1,435. The architects were Messrs. Goddard and Son. The position is unfortunate. Many were unaware of the very existence of such a pretty building till Mrs. Burnaby's house was pulled down, and it must almost inevitably be shut out from view again when that overcast space is built over. Alderman Newton died in 1762, two years after his bequest. There is no likeness of him either in bust or picture. but an elaborate monument in St. Martin's Church, bearing busts of two of his wives, and of his youthful son, with verbose epitaphs. Many of our now prosperous tradesmen received their education in the Green Coat School."

The Trustees from 1849 to 1852 were:—Reverend W. H. Anderdon, Samuel Stephen Bankart, Esq., T. V. Dabbs, Esq., William Dalton, Esq., J. Hodgson, Esq., James Hudson, Esq., Thomas Lee, Esq., Thomas Macaulay, Esq., Richard Mitchell, Esq., Joseph Underwood, Esq., Rev. E. T. Vaughan and Thomas Wood Esq. It was to the late Mr. Joseph Underwood (of whom I shall speak more fully elsewhere) that I was indebted for my admission into the school, and I had the high privilege to enjoy the judicious teaching of Mr. Odell and Mr. Pearson and subsequently of Mr. Willson. In the morning, I always got to the top of the class for personal neatness, not obtained without arduous skin-scrubbing and boot-brushing. I have in my possession prizes for good conduct and a special prize for Scripture History. The question and answer which secured me this distinction may now be considered a little singular:—

Question :- "Where did Pontius Pilate die?"

Answer:—"He committed suicide at a spot now included in the site of modern Paris?"

The prize itself is a curiosity, the mere name of which deserves preservation to show what was in those days thought suitable literary recreation for the Green Coat Boys. The full title is:—"The Book of Reptiles. (Class Reptilia.)—With

some account of the Fossil Remains of Animals whose species have become extinct."

So, you see, my knowledge of crawling creatures is not confined to those of the two-legged species. The Rev. Joseph Wood has a great horror of corporal punishment as recommended by the humorist:—

Spare the red and spoil the child, Solomon said in accents mild. Be they man or be they maid, Whip and wollop them Solomon said.

Many of us, who were freely chastised, confess for the benefit of Home Secretary Sir W. Harcourt and his juvenile offenders that we were all the better for a good caning. The "birching," rarely resorted to, was an imposing and terror-inspiring ordeal. The offender was mounted on the back of a bigger boy and, in puris naturalibus well tanned fundamentally with a broom. birchee was little trouble for some time after the operation. School Board advocates would crow less perhaps, if they would visit, as I did the other day, the Green Coat School, and see the neatness, discipline and intelligence of the 120 lads, who have the privilege of being under the superintendence of such a judicious educator as Headmaster Hanford. Alderman Newton's legacy has been a boon and blessing to thousands of the sons of the "upper poor," who have done honour to the Charity and credit to their native town in all spheres of life. I may be pardoned for mentioning that the Reads have not been always or only beneficiaries of the Green Coat School. In 1821, Alderman Thomas Read bequeathed £200 to be invested in Government Securities, the dividends of which are annually given to some boy educated at the school, who has faithfully fulfilled his apprenticeship. Surely it is a bitter spirit on the part of sectaries to deride the "pious founders" whose charities have done so much for the education and social advancement of deserving youth.

WYGGESTON HOSPITAL.

Wyggeston Hospital—a peaceful haven for deserving, aged bachelors and widows or spinsters, where the last tide of life

may ebb peacefully away-was founded by William Wigston, junior (a merchant of the staple of Calais and Mayor of Leicester in 1498) at a date not precisely known. Three distinct chroniclers -Carte, Speed and Burton-respectively assign the foundation to the reigns of Henry VI., Henry VII., and Henry VIII. The primitive building included a neat Chapel, a Master's house and separate apartments for a confrater, twelve men and twelve women. all single. The maintenance of the inmates was secured March 1, 1519, by ample endowments of lands and manors; and the statutes of the institution were confirmed by John. Bishop of Lincoln, September 30, 1522. The sum of £20 and the tithes of Southfields were bequeathed to the Hospital in 1541 by Agnes. the founder's widow. The early value of the Master's place has been variously estimated from £60 to £70. In spiritual things the hospitallers were made over by indenture to the ghostly care of the Vicar of St. Martin's. The founder's gift passed safely through the reigns of Edward VI. and Queen Mary; Queen Elizabeth "granted liberty to any other person to give lands, &c." to this Hospital; and while that "bright occidental star" shone further statutes were enacted for the government of the house, "tending to good order, and cleanliness in particular." In this reign also, Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, from the rentcharges issuing out of the lands of the dissolved Abbey, gave £66 13s. 4d. per annum to be distributed as follows:—To the confrater of the Hospital (on condition that he should be a preacher constantly resident in Leicester and preach every Sunday afternoon in St. Martin's, except in case of sickness or the pulpit being otherwise occupied) £30; to the Master of the free school £10; to certain poor scholars, for five years only, to enable them to go to Oxford and Cambridge, an equal number to each University, to become preachers, £10; to be divided among the 24 inmates of the Hospital or spent in frieze gowns for those whose founder's liveries in any year should be worn out, £6 13s. 4d.; and the remaining £10 to the Master for superintending the grant. In 1656 John Whatton, Esq., commemorated in St. Mary's chancel, gave £7 per annum, payable out of the Shirehall close, for the maintenance of an additional poor widow. At the foundation, the allowance to the inmates was wood, coal, salt, oatmeal, gowns, &c.; and in addition, 8d. per week to the

males and 7d. to nine of the women, the remaining three women, who acted as nurses, receiving 8d, per week. As the value of the rents increased, so did the annual total allowance to be divided among the 24 in the following ratio: -1661, £1 14s. 8d.; 1662, £2 6s.; 1668, £2 10s.; 1674, £2 4s.; 1677, £2 18s.; 1681, £3. Taking a jump of 40 years, I find the amount divisible in 1721 to have been £3 8s., which gave 2s. 10d. per week to each inmate. Whatever the good intentions of the founder, the Hospital was sufficiently comfortless-at least to the females, for the Charity Commissioners, in 1837, found that nine women's rooms were without fire-places. Those desirous to see the "remains" of the ancient building, may find the Chapel furniture with its Perpendicular tracery worked into the re-fittings of the chancel of the Chapel at Trinity Hospital; while one of the "graceful niches" flanking the south window of the Chapel has been preserved in the north aisle of St. Nicholas' Church. The Charity Commission above alluded to arose, by the tardy revolution of red tape, out of a petition from the inhabitants of Leicester to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; it having transpired that, in contravention of the ancient statutes, though in literal conformity to the Act of Elizabeth, Mr. Selwin, who died in 1823, had appropriated no less a sum than £24,440 which had accrued from fines received on the renewal of leases. Subsequent Masters had to enter into bonds. which produced little advantage to the foundation out of the doubling and quadrupling revenues. It has been said that "the Mills of God grind slow," but they can be little more laggardly than certain legal mills; for it was not until 21st February, 1857, that the Court of Chancery approved a new scheme for the disposition of the estates and application of the revenues of Wyggeston Hospital by 20 trustees. was that the new building of red brick, faced with Attleboro' and Bath stone, was erected at the junction of the Hinckley and Fosse Roads, according to plans by Mr. T. C. Corby, at a cost of some £13,000; and thither the hospitallers were removed in 1869. There each of the 12 male and 13 female inmates has a living room 12 by 10 ft. and a bed-room 10 ft. square, and there are also spacious kitchens, sculleries and bathrooms for convenience; besides a pretty aspidal chapel, fitted up with

oak and walnut, inlaid with ebony and cedar, a muniment room, a board room and a waiting room; besides a recreation room for the men, and, in the rear, a laundry and drying room. To each inmate is also allotted a cultivable portion of ground. The "Master," who must reside at least nine months of the year in Leicester, has an annual stipend of £300, with house and garden, and exercises the chief authority in the internal economy. "Confrater" enjoys an annual stipend of £200 and a dwellinghouse, on condition of reading daily morning service, celebrating full divine service and preaching a sermon in the Chapel every Sunday, administering the Lord's Supper monthly, and being generally a "Shepherd and bishop of souls" to the inmates; not being allowed to absent himself more than six weeks in one year without leave of the trustees or Master. Both offices are held during Her Majesty's pleasure. inmates are widows or spinsters not under 60 years of age, and males, who may be married if their wives are not under 60 years of age. The weekly stipend of each inmate now amounts to 8s., except in the case of three female Nurses, who receive 10s. each. The scheme of 1857 also provided for the establishment of schools for boys and girls, which are now magnificently at work.

WYGGESTON BOYS' SCHOOL.

This handsome building—facing Highcross Street, with a fine playground in the rear towards St. Martin's Church—is from the design of Messr. Shenton and Baker. Accommodation is provided for 500 pupils, and that complement is always maintained. The internal arrangements comprise a large school-room, five large and two smaller class-rooms, an Art room, a lecture room, the Head Master's room, a waiting rhom, and a reading room; in all of which the furnishings are of the most perfect description. The present governing body is composed as follows:—Chairman, Rev. Canon Vaughan, M.A.; Vice-chairman, Mr. Alfred Burgess; the Mayor of Leicester for the time being (now Alderman John Bennett); Mr. Collier, Sir F. T. Fowke, Sir A. G. Hazlerigg, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. J. Higginson, Mr.

Preston, Mr. Sarson, Dr. Shaw, Mr. W. H. Walker, Mr. Windley, Rev. J. Wood, Captain Pochin, and Alderman Stafford; the Clerk to the Governors being Mr. A. H. Burgess. The death of Mr. E. Shipley Ellis, who was not only a governor of the school, but an arduous and assiduous supporter and a judicious and far-seeing counsellor of the governing body, is much lamented by his surviving colleagues, whose feelings, as they periodically meet for the despatch of business, are fittingly embodied in the Laureate's lines—

Oh for the touch of a vanished hand, And the sound of a voice that is still!

The educational staff embraces much discretion and talent. as will be seen from the subjoined official list:—Head Master, Rev. James Went, M.A., Trinity College, Dublin; Second Master, George Henry Nelson, M.A., F.R.G.S., late Scholar of Queen's College, Oxford; Assistant Masters, Rev. Edward Atkins, B.Sc., University of London (Mathematical and Science Master); H. S. Biggs; Woodburn J. Bomford, B.A., late Exhibitioner of Queen's College, Oxford; William W. Cole, University of London; Rev. Ambrose P. Dawson, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge; Frederick Geary, University of Cambridge; Alfred Holt; Alban James; Eugene Joel, Bachelier-es-Lettres of the Sorbonne, Paris; M. L. Lewis, M.A., LL.M., late Scholar of Downing College, Cambridge; William P. Mann, B.A., University of London; Arthur W. Poyser, University of London; Frank W. Rogers (Music Master); Edward Worthington (Art Master). The above Masters, it is important to note, all attend during the whole School time. The following are the Fees charged: -Entrance Fee, £1; Tuition Fee, for boys under 10, £4 per annum; for boys between 10 and 15, £6 per annum; and for boys over 15, £8 per annum. A fixed charge of 3s. 6d. per term is made for stationery, drawing paper, and copy books. The only extra is Greek, the fee for which is £3 per annum. Boys are admitted at the age of 8. In the lower forms every care is taken with the formation of the handwriting of the boys, and the foundation is laid of a good English education. The ordinary course of the School comprises: - English, Latin, French, and German languages and literature; arithmetic and mathematics; natural science; ancient and modern history and

geography; drawing and vocal music. Greek is an optional subject. There is an extra writing class after School hours, on Wednesday and Saturday, for boys who require special attention in this subject. The parents of applicants for admission must enter their names and addresses with the Clerk to the Governors, Mr. A. H. Burgess, Solicitor, Berridge Street. The fees are payable terminally in advance. A full term's notice must be given in writing to the Head Master, or a term's fee paid previous to the withdrawal of any boy from the School. When notice for the withdrawal of a boy from the School has been received, a printed acknowledgment of the notice, 'signed by the Head Master, is at once sent to the parent or guardian. Pupils who in the judgment of the Head Master exercise an injurious influence on their School-fellows, or who fail to profit by the educational advantages offered, will (after reasonable notice has been given to their parents or guardians) be required to withdraw at the end of the current term. The School year is divided into three terms. The holidays consist of six weeks at the end of the summer term, four weeks at Christmas, and two weeks at Whitsuntide. The hours of attendance are from 9 to 12-30, and from 2-30 to 4-30, every day except Wednesday and Saturday, on which days half holidays are given. Religious instruction is restricted to lessons in the Bible. By the scheme. exemption from attendance at prayers, or from any lesson in a religious subject, may be claimed on written notice thereof being given to the Head Master. The discipline of the School is in the hands of the Head Master. Regularity and punctuality of attendance are expected and strictly enforced. No cause except illness is recognised as a sufficient excuse for non attendance. A notice of the absence of any boy is sent at once to his parent or guardian, and a note of explanation requested. In case of illness a note to that effect from the parent or guardian is sufficient. A certificate from a medical man is required only in case of infectious disease. Each boy is placed under the immediate supervision of one of the Masters. It is the duty of the Form Master to watch carefully the progress of the boys assigned to him; to direct and advise them in cases of difficulty; and to periodically report to the Head Master on their work and conduct. Punishment School is held every day for half-an-hour,

after the ordinary work is over, and also on Wednesday afternoon. A half holiday is given monthly to boys who have been reported as industrious and well behaved during the preceding month. A terminal report of the conduct and progress of each boy is sent to his parent or guardian. Parents and guardians are invited to communicate freely with the Head Master, who will give his best attention in all matters concerning the welfare of the boys. Boys under nine in the two lower forms of the Junior Department (the first and lower second) are not required to do any home lessons; and boys between the age of nine and ten are required to do only half-an-hour's home lessons each evening. For boys above ten the preparation of school work for next day should, as a rule, occupy one hour in the lower forms, and hour and a-half in the middle forms, and two hours in the higher forms. A scheme of the work is given to each boy for home reference, showing the amount of time which he is expected to give to the evening preparation of each subject. Parents are particularly requested to see that the proper time is regularly given to the home lessons. Whenever much more or less than the specified time is taken up, information should at once be given to the Head Master. The school contains a large library of books of reference and general literature, which is open to the boys free of charge. In case of infectious disease, no boy is allowed to return to School on recovery without a medical certificate to the effect that he is free from infection: and no boy is allowed to attend School from a house in which there is, or has been, infectious disease, without the permission of the Medical Adviser and of the Head Master. The value and solidity of the education offered at the Wyggeston Boys' School are evidenced by the fact that ten certificates of the Oxford and Cambridge Boards were obtained by pupils in 1880. I hope that the priceless educational advantages here offered may, by some philanthropic scheme, in consonance with the pious founder's design, become more and more accessible to the boys of Leicester, whose parents are unable to pay the fees now required, though these are not an exorbitant consideration for the training offered.

WYGGESTON GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The architectural design of this spacious School in Humberstone Gate is to be placed to the credit of our clever townsman, Mr. E. Burgess, and the internal arrangements are of the most advanced and useful type. Accommodation is provided for and occupied by 300 girls. The composition of the governing body is as follows: - Chairman, Rev. Canon Vaughan, M.A.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Alfred Burgess; the Worshipful the Mayor of Leicester; Mr. George Baines, Mr. William Barfoot, Rev. J. N. Bennie, Mr. Alfred Burgess, Sir F. T. Fowke, Mr. G. S. Harris, Sir A. G. Hazlerigg, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Hollingworth, Mr. Preston, Mr. Sarson, Dr. Shaw, Mr. Windley, Rev. J. Wood: and they have also the advantage of the feminine tact and more sensitive judgment of Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. T. F. Johnson, Miss E. M. Ellis, and Mrs. J. D. Paul. The Head Mistress, Miss Ellen Leicester, is assisted by an able educational staff. The object of this School is to offer sound and careful instruction. under competent Teachers, to girls between the ages of 7 and 17. The organization of the School is specially directed to meet and correct the defects pointed out in the Schools Enquiry Commission :-- "Want of thoroughness and foundation; want of system: slovenliness and showy superficiality; inattention to rudiments; undue time given to accomplishments; want of organization." Serious endeavours are also made to train the pupils for the practical business and duties of life. The School is divided into two departments, called respectively the Senior Department and the Junior Department. Girls are admitted into the Junior Department at the age of 7, and into the Senior Department at the age of 13, in the order of application, provided the entrance examination can be passed. The Fees (payble in advance) are as follows:-Junior Department: Entrance fee, 10s.; Tuition fee. for girls under 10, £1 per term; for girls between 10 and 12, £1 6s. 8d. per term; and for girls above 12, £1 13s. 4d. per term. Senior Department:-Entrance fee, £1; Tuition fee, for girls under 15, £1 13s. 4d. per term; and for girls above 15, £2 per term. A fixed charge of 2s. 6d. per term is made for stationery, drawing paper, and copy books. For the following accomplishments extra fees are charged :- Pianoforte, £2 2s. per term; and solo singing, £2 2s. per term.

These lessons are given in the afternoon. Cambridge local examination fee, £1 5s., College of Preceptors, 10s. The course includes reading, writing, arithmetic, elementary mathematics, book keeping; English grammar, composition, and literature; ancient and modern history; geography, physical and political; French, German, and Latin; natural science; domestic economy and laws of health; plain needlework; drawing, class singing and calisthenics. The other arrangements are similar to those already described as existing in the Boys' School, and I have only further to repeat the hope that this most admirable seminary also may, as the years go on, become less and less exclusive.

TRINITY HOSPITAL.

Looking over such an admirable mediæval institution as the above, situated in the Newarke, one cannot but be impressed with the praiseworthy traits of Christianity displayed by our opulent ancestors who gave, during their lives, out of their Heaven - bestowed abundance, in order to secure both that the Gospel should be preached to the poor and that their physical comfort should be assured. Henry Gresmund, Duke of Lancester is credited with the foundation of this Hospital, in 1331, although it was probably commenced by his father the The original bequest was "four carulast Earl of Lancaster. cates" of land in Leicester and the advowson of the Church of Ircester in Northamptonshire. The king for the time being, as heir to the Lancaster estates, paid to the Hospital until the grand rebellion the annual sum of £299 11s. 8d. for the maintenance of 100 poor and weak men, and 10 able women to nurse the sick and assist the weak, for the services of a chaplain and for repairs and fuel. Devout pilgrims to this shrine of beneficence were entitled in ancient times to papal exemption from penance. A Collegiate Church, claimed to have been of rare beauty, was the result of further benefactions, but only two arches remain as memorials, and there is not a trace extant of the Lancastrian tombs or of those of William of Wigston and other notables. The College having been dissolved, the Mastership of the Hospital was given by Queen Elizabeth to the

Earl of Huntingdon, and, in 1609—10, sold by him to the Corporation, who appear to have carefully cultivated the property for the benefit of a master, six assistants, a chaplain and any number of poor persons not exceeding 110, until it, along with the general revenues of the Crown, was seized by the Parliament of 1647 and retained until 1651, when the sum of £271 19s. 6d., arising from various rents, was vested in trustees for the support of this Hospital, and of the usher of the Free School and the Vicar of St. Mary's. After the Restoration, the income, in nearly its old volume, returned into the ancient channel; though in 1683 it fell to £205. Petitions to Charles II. and James I. resulted in the Chancellor of the Duchy reducing the number of beneficiaries instead of increasing the emoluments to their old figure. The following account of expenditure drawn out by Sir Mathew Wright, the Recorder, in 1695 is not devoid of interest:-

To 100 poor men and women, each 7d. weekly	2	18	4
Ten Keepers each 10d	0	8	9
For the year	174	8	4
Wood money	10	0	0
Halfpenny money, the gift of Simpkin Simpson	. 11	16	8
Fivepenny money, the gift of Lady Harvey	2	1	8
Sixpenny money, the founder's gift	2	10	0
Lamp money	1	0	0
Livery money	12	0	0
The widows of St. John's	2	15	0
	266	11	8
Chaplain £5, repairs £4, for fuel by gift £4	13	0	0
	£229	11	8

Tablets in the chapel record numerous private benefactions from Mayors, Aldermen, Councillors and other philanthropists in the town up to the present time.

The Hospital was rebuilt in its present form by George III, and in 1780, under seal of the Duchy of Lancaster, the annual accounts were arranged as follows:—

REVENUE.	£	s.	d.
The Michaelmas rents and gifts	116	18	4
The Lady-day rents and gifts	79	15	4
Lady Moyer's donation	20	0	0
Mr. Holmes's donation	45	0	0
The drover's money, livery money, lamp money,			
halfpenny money and sixpenny money	23	6	6
The old pay of 8d. a week to the 8 keepers	13	17	4
The old pay of 7d. a week to 80 poor	121	6	8
The old allowance for repairs	4	0	0
The like for fuel	9	11	1
Voluntary bounty of the Duchy Officers in giving			
up their fees and poundages	14	15	9
His Majesty's additional grant per annum	40	0	0
• •			
	£488	11	0
Expenditure.			
Weekly Allowance.—An	nual	Am	ount.
£ s. d.	£	8.	d.
To the 8 keepers for soap and		•	
washing 18	4	6	8
To the 8 keepers 2s. 4d. each			
in lieu of all other allow-	40	• •	_
ances and perquisites 18 8	48	10	8
To the 2 women entitled to			
Mr. Biller's donation and exclusively thereof 10d.			
each 18	4	6	8
To the remaining 80 poor 1s.			
10d. each	381	6	8
Apothecary medicines	10	0	0
For fuel	11	0	0
For lamps and candles	5	0	0
To the foreman for collecting rents	0	15	0
And the remaining sum of £23 5s. 4d., with all			
saving of pay for vacant houses three			
months after vacancy, are to be kept by the			
Master and Assistants for the future repairs			
of the Hospital	23	5	4
or mo reopen			
Total as above	£488	11	0

By way of contrast, after the lapse of a century, I may say that the annual income is now about £1.300, from the Duchy of Lancaster, charter lands, various donations and Corporation charities. The Mayor is Master, by virtue of his office, and his assistants are the "four most ancient Aldermen." Perhaps nowhere has the hand of change intruded less than into Trinity Hospital: the most notable departure from the practices of the good old times being that the lads and lasses are forbidden to use the Hall for "Kiss in the ring" on Easter Monday. After many visits to the Hospital, I cannot entertain a doubt that it is carrying out the object of the pious founder in providing a comfortable retreat for deserving poverty and old age. One of the inmates, sitting by his own hearthstone, beside a cheerful fire, gratefully and emphatically said:—"I would not change places with the Queen on the throne." Visitors to the chapel will find, on the right hand wall of the chancel, hanging in a frame, in careful caligraphy, the following poem, the irregularity of which is compensated for by its sincerity, written by a recent inmate of the Hospital, now deceased :-

GRATITUDE.

May the God of all love Reward him above, The founder of this Charity; In Heaven may he find Satisfaction of mind Throughout all eternity.

To his worship the Mayor,
And those in the rear.
Who share in our sympathy;
For their kindness and zeal
We sensibly feel
And acknowledge with sincerity.

May the funds so increase,
That more be placed
In the same situation as we;
And all of us then
Say aloud, "Amen!"
Which signifies "So let it be."

May the aged yet come,
And here find a heme,
Secure and from poverty free;
Till death and the grave
Our bodies receive,
And our souls dwell in eternity.

S. BARKER.

The establishment now consists of 16 men and 28 women in the Hospital, and 56 beneficiaries, who reside at their own homes; but all of whom assemble at daily morning prayers, and on Sunday at Divine service, when they are spiritually ministered to by that most genial of clerics, Canon Broughton. Visitors are shown a large cauldron of bell-metal, called "the Duke of Lancaster's porridge-pot," which I have noticed in connection with the Veterans' Banquet. It holds 61 gallons, and was formerly used to make furmity in to sell to the people of the town. You can also see a monster ancient nutmeg grater, called "Queen Elizabeth's pocket-piece," bearing the following inscription on the top: - "Anno Regni Reginæ Elizabeth Anglize; on the one side: -" Think wel, and say wel, but rather do wel: on the other side: -Flee idleness and be wel occupied, 1519: and on the bottom :- " This belongeth to the Old Ospital in Leicester." I have a very vivid recollection, when fourteen years old, of one public appearance of the Trinitarians, where the more able-bodied of the hospitallers, on the 28th April, 1852, paraded in the ancient plate armour (still preserved in the Hospital) on the occasion of the unveiling of the Duke of Rutland's statute.

SIR THOMAS WHITE'S CHARITY.

"White name, white gifts, white sowle, white saint in heaven!" Such is one line in a now obliterated inscription placed under Sir Thomas White's Arms, in the Town Hall parlour, to celebrate his noble generosity, while yet numbered with the living. The words will doubtless be heartily emphasized by many now prosperous tradesmen to whom in their youth the "White loan" opened up a successful career. Sir

Thomas White, Alderman and Lord Mayor of London, and a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, in 1546 paid over £1,400 to the Mayor and Corporation of Coventry to purchase lands, the annual rents of which, £70, went to the donor during his life. At his death, in 1556, his Will directed the following payments to be made:—

- First year.—40s. per year free gift to twelve poor men of Coventry.
 - ,, —£10 each, for nine years free of interest, to four young tradesmen of the same place, provided they were free of the city and gave security.
- Tenth year.—£20 each to two young men, free of Coventry, to be continued for 30 years, each holding the money for nine years without interest, as before.
- Twentieth year.—To one other freeman of Coventry £40 for nine years, without interest, and so on as before for ever.
- Thirty-second year.—To the Town of Northampton, £40, to lend £10 each to four young freemen of that place, for nine years as before for ever.
- Thirty-third year.—To the Town of Leicester, £40, to be disposed of as by Northampton.
- Thirty-fourth year.—To the Town of Nottingham, £40, on like conditions.
- Thirty-fifth year.—To the Town of Warwick, £40, on like conditions.
- Thirty-sixth year.—£40 to one young freeman of Coventry for nine years, and so on for ever.

It was provided that this five years' rotation should be permanent, and that the person to whom the money might be lent should be chosen impartially. Coventry became covetous, and sought to "muddle away" the annual increment of value—which was no less than from £70 to £709 in 1709—and after the four Corporations had appealed unsuccessfully to Chancery, and successfully to the House of Lords, the following order for 25th March 1709, was made:—

					£	s.	d.
First year.—25th March 1709, to Coventry						2	2
Second year.	-To Coventry	£243	3	0			
,,	To Merchant Taylors	60	15	0			
"	To Northampton	405	4	2			
					709	2	2
Third year	-To Coventry	243	3	0			
,,	To Merchant Taylors	60	15	0			
,,	To Leicester	405	4	2			
• •					709	2	2

Fourth year, Warwick to take the place of Leicester, and so on Northampton, Leicester, and Warwick, in proportionate quinquennial succession. In 1791, Throsby says:-"The sum now in the gift of the Mayor and Aldermen of Leicester, or rather out at use, amounts to upwards of £11,000, and is lent to tradesmen, freemen of Leicester, in sums of £50 and £40; no person being allowed to have more than one £50 and £40 during his life, and these sums never at one time; no petition of that nature being complied with till after the payment of the first loan." The annual rent of the property purchased with the original £1,400 is now some £2,000 per annum. Leicester has now lent out in sums of £50 and £100, approaching to £30,000, and barring an occasional disposition to give the loans to prop up effete tradesmen instead of to afford young tradesmen a start, the Charity is well-managed and productive of immense good. In the words of the quaint inscription I have already noticed, the generous shade of Sir Thomas White might well say to the niggards who never think of liberally disposing during their lives, or even at death, of the treasure they cannot take to the grave with them :-

"Die then and stiak, you hulks of shame
Who charged with wealth have nothing but the name
Of dying rich, whose tombs shall never speak
Your praise. Our White shall all your credi break."

LEICESTER INFIRMARY.

Patients who find shelter and healing within this noble institution, or who, as out-patients, are the recipients of skilful medical or surgical treatment, should not forget the debt they owe to Dr. William Watts, of Danett's Hall, who was the first to secure for the Infirmary the interest and aid of the more wellto-do classes. Once a few generous subscriptions were on record, the necessary money was soon forthcoming, and in 1771, a building was opened capable of receiving 60 "patients from any county or nation recommended," as now, "by subscribers." Ten years later, on receipt of legacies of £1,000 from Mrs. Topps and £200 from Mrs. Ann Wigley, a south-west wing was added for the reception of "indigent lunatics." This space was set free for other purposes, on the opening of the County Lunatic Asylum 55 years afterwards, and a south-east wing was added in 1816 White says that on January 1st, 1845, the number of inmates in the Infirmary was 108, and in the Fever House 12; while in the following year, 1089 general and 145 Fever patients were admitted into the House, and the out-patients treated number 1900, or an average of six per diem. - At this period, 1845, the yearly Revenue was as follows -

Intere	st of £10,500, 3 per cent. Console	purc	hased	
w	ith benefactions			£315
Yearly	subscriptions to Infirmary		• •	1,200
,,	,, to Fever House			300
,,	Church collections about	• •	• •	1,500
			-	23.315

No wonder that, with the exigent claims upon them, the governing body found it hard to enter upon each new financial year with "a clean slate." By 1874, the useful work of the Charity had very greatly increased, as will be seen from the subjoined statement—

		1873		1874 De		ecrease.	
					_		-
In-Patients		1,936	••	1,902	• •	34	
Out-Patients	• •	9,183	• •	8,325	• •	858	
Total		11,119		10,227		892	

The daily average number of In-Patients was in 1874—146, in 1873—153½. The average stay of each In-Patient was in 1874—28 days, in 1873—29 days. The average cost of the Patients as compared with 1873, was as follows—

		18	73.	1874				
	£	. s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Average cost of each In-Patient	3	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$		3	6	8	
ditto ditto per week	0	14	9 1		0	16	8	
Average cost of each Out-Patient	0	2	01		0	2	3 3	

The Income of the Infirmary from all sources during the year 1874 has been £6,589 ls. 1½d. A comparison with that of 1873 shows the following result:—

		1873.			1874			crea	se.	Dec	reas	e.		lett reas	e.
Annual Subscriptions	£. 2910	s. 4	d. :	£. 2876		d.	£. 	s.	d.	£. 33	s. 18	d.	£.	s.	d .
Dividends	199	7	3	231	3	4	31	16	1						
Collections in Churches and Chapels	1495	5	11	1549	15	7 2	54	9	8}			ŀ			
Donations	1778	5		131	6	5				1646	18	7			
Donations from Workpeople	612	8	41	639	ı	3	26	12	10]						
Legacies	514	16		714	19		200	3)]		Ì
Miscellaneous	125	0	8	186	8	6	61	7	10			l		ĺ	ί
Fever House	342	2	Ì	260	1					82	1	l			l
Total £	7977	9	22	6589	1	12	374	9	6	1762	17	7	1388	8	Ī

The total expenditure for the year 1874 was £7,164 12s. 4d. (and Fever House additional £139 17s.), against £6,701 15s. 8d. (and Fever House additional £169 4s. 11d.) in 1873, thus showing an increase on the year of £433 8s. 9d. The excess of expenditure over income in 1874 was £575 11s. 2½d. Passing to the Report for the year ending 31st December, 1879, as space will not permit me to dwell on intervening years, I find many facts worthy of more general notice than official documents usually receive. The Weekly Board had the satisfaction of announcing a large increase of income; the total amount received by the Institution being no less than £20,258 8s. 4d. This result was owing to the munificent bequest of £10,000 by the late Mr. Wm. Adcock of Syston; to a legacy of £1,000

from the late Mr. Joshua Biddle of Claydon; to the donation of £1.000 from Mr. William Hurst of Leeds, as administrator of the late Mrs. Brook of Enderby; and to other large benefactions and legacies, detailed in the Treasurer's accounts. Notwithstanding the effect of the long-continued depression in agriculture and trade upon the Hospital Sunday collections, and on the donations from workpeople, there was an increase of £105 6s. 6d. in the amount of annual subscriptions. During 1879, the Board added to the Capital of the Infirmary the sum of £11,000, which, along with the money realized by the sale of 3 per cent. consols and exchequer bills, was invested with the Corporation of Leicester on debenture at 4 per cent. The expenditure during 1879 exceeded that of the previous year by £339 12s. 2d. But this is accounted for by the additional outlay under the head of "repairs and alterations," caused chiefly by the rebuilding of the Boundary Wall and rearrangement of the old Museum; besides an increase in the daily average number of patients in the House, which in 1879 was 4½ more than in 1878. During the year 1879, 10,845 patients availed themselves of the benefits of the Institution. Compared with 1878 the numbers are :-

	1878.	1879.	Decrease.
In-patients	2188	2127	61
Out-patients	9702	8718	984
Total	11,890	10,845	1045

The daily average number of in-patients was in 1878, 155½; in 1879, 160. The average stay of each in-patient was in 1878, 26 days; in 1879, 27½ days. The average cost of the patients as compared with 1878, is as follows:—

•	1878.			1879.				
•	£	8.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Average cost of each In-patient	3	4	5	3	9	13		
Ditto ditto per week	0	17	4	0	17	7		
Average cost of each Out-patient	0	1	11	0	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$		

The deaths numbered the small proportion of 115. The amount received by the Treasurer from all sources during the year 1879 has been £20,258 8s. 4d. A comparison with the income of 1878 shows the following result:—

		1878			1879		In	crea	e.	Dec	reas	e.		Vett	е.
Annual Subscriptions	£. 2980	s. 4	d.	£. 3085	s.	d. 6	£.	s. 6	d .	£٠	s.	d. 	£٠	s.	d.
Dividends and Interest	437	0	8	695	11	4	258	10	8						
Collections in Churches and Chapels	1520	15	o	1283	2	3				237	12	9			
Donations	526	11	3	1512	5	9	985	14	6						l
Donations from Workpeople	1027	4	8	953	17	1				73	7	7			
Legacies	1377	16	11	12334	2	6	10956	5	7						1
Miscellaneous	102	0	6	159	12	11	57	12	5						ĺ
Fever House	296	5	0	234	6	0				бі	19				1
Total £	8267	18	°	20258	8	4	12363	9	8	372	19	4	1199	0 10	4

The total expenditure for the year 1879 was £8,266 4s. 8d. (and Fever House additional, £50 5s. 3d.), against £7,943 3s. 6d. (and Fever House additional, £33 14s. 3d.) in 1878, thus showing an increase on the year of £339 12s. 2d. While the wealthy and charitable will not forget this noble Institution, either during life or in their testamentary dispositions, increase should be reasonably hoped for in Hospital Sunday collections in Churches and Chapels, and Hospital Saturday donations by workpeople. The latter, especially, who are steadily growing in the laudable virtue of sturdy self-help, should exert themselves to support a Charity which is as benevolent to their order, when afflicted, as was the unselfish Samaritan of the New Testament story. The following extracts from the Infirmary Rules are worthy the serious notice of the philanthropic:--"Subscribers of Two Guineas or more annually are Governors during payment, and benefactors of Fifty Guineas or more at one time are Governors during life. Every benefactor of Fifty Guineas at one time, and every subscriber of Two Guineas annually, may recommend two in-patients and eight out, or three in and no out-patients, or twenty out and no in-patients, every year, and in the same proportion for every additional benefaction and subscription. Every benefactor of Twenty-five Guineas at one time, and every subscriber of One Guinea annually, may recommend one in-patient and four out, or ten out-patients. No subscriber may have more than two in-patients in the House at the same time. No person can be admitted who is able to pay for medical treatment; and

no one can remain as an in-patient who is capable of receiving equal benefit medically as an out-patient. Subscriptions commence on the 1st day of January, and are payable in advance, to the credit of the Treasurer, C. T. Freer, Esq., at Pares's Leicestershire Banking Company, or at any of the branches; and no subscriber's recommendation can be accepted if his subscription for the year ending 31st of December preceding, or any former year be unpaid."

I conclude with the names of the governing body and the officials, by which it will be seen that the efficient management of the Institution is guaranteed beyond suspicion:-President: His Grace the Duke of Rutland, K.G. Vice-Presidents: the Right Hon. the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, the Right Hon. the Earl of Lanesborough, the Right Hon. the Earl Howe, Sir Arthur Grey Hazlerigg, Bart. Visitor: the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Peterborough. Trustees: Sir A. G. Hazlerigg. Bart.; Sir H. St. John Halford, Bart.; William Unwin Heygate, Esq., M.P.; Thomas Fielding Johnson, Esq.; H. Leycester Powys Keck, Esq.; Charles Marriott, Esq. Treasurer: C. T. Freer, Esq. Consulting Physicians: George Shaw, Esq., M.D.; J. Wyatt Crane, Esq., M.D. Physicians: John Barclay, Esq., M.D; Charles William Cooper, Esq., M.B.; William Elgar Buck, Esq., M.D. Surgeons: T. W. Benfield, Esq.; Charles H. Marriott, Esq. M.D.; Charles R. Crossley, Esq. Ophthalmic Surgeon: Frank H. Hodges, Esq. Surgeon Dentist: W. Tibbits, Esq. Chaplain: the Rev. R. Guinness, M.A. The Weekly Board.—Sir A. G. Hazlerigg, Bart., Chairman; W. Barfoot, Esq.; Rev. J. N. Bennie, W. Brookes, Esq.; J. H. Cooper, Esq.; T. F. Johnson, Esq.; M. Maxfield, Esq.; J. Sarson, Esq.; S. F. Stone, Esq.; the Treasurer, the Physician and Surgeon for the week, the House Visitors for the previous week. House Surgeon and Apothecary: C. A. Moore, M.B. Lady Superintendent: Miss Mary Irving. Secretary: T. A. Wykes. Offices: 24, Friar Lane, Leicester.

LEICESTER SCHOOL BOARD.

The question of providing a national system of elementary education has happily emerged from the heated region of politico-theological controversy into clearer air. The information furnished to me by Mr. A. H. Burgess, Clerk to the School Board, and also contained in a triennial address delivered by the Rev. Joseph Wood, Chairman of the School Board since 1874, is tantamount to the history of a tremendous, though silent, social and educational revolution. Nine years ago, an inquiry established the fact that in Leicester "school places" were required for 16,877 children of school age. The voluntary schools supplied 10,053 "places," but these were occupied, on an average, by 5.037 children only. Thus, as Mr. Wood puts it, "these figures revealed a state of educational destitution worse, with the exception of London, than in any other great town in the kingdom. To-day our reproach is completely wiped out."

The School accommodation in 1879 was as follows:--

Volun	tary Sch	ools		 	11,306
Board	Schools	(Permanent)		 7,853	
,,	"	(Temporary)	••	 700	8,558
		·			19,859

And the average attendance is nearly 16,000 at present against 5,037 in 1871. The Chairman estimates that, to meet the increase of population, if it continues at the recent rate, a new School of 1,000 places will be required every two years. The following is an instructive summary of quarterly reports from teachers for the quarter ending 29th September, 1880:—

						•								
NAME OF	SCB	001	ccom-	ge No. Roll.	Roll. No.in nce on day.	Avge du	. We	ekly a	ttend	ance r.	Total Fees received during the			
NAME OF	· ·		Total Accom	Average on the Ro	Highest No.in attendance or any one day.	Boys.	Girls.	Mixed.	Infants	Total.		uarte s.		
Syston Strei	et.										1			
Boys				262	286	252				252	25	13	9	
Girls	•••		2.0	285	263		237	233		237 233	24 23	12 6	9 10	
Mixed Infants	•••			276 287	255 272			233	251	$\begin{array}{c} 255 \\ 251 \end{array}$	23	2	20	
Imanto	•••		240	201	212		•••	•••	201	201		_	_	
King Richar				000		001				001	34	5		
Boys Girls	•••			385 446	370 380	331	 355	•••	•••	331 355	38	(13	8	
Infants	•••		000	323	331				282	282	29	4	4	
. ~									l					
Oxford Stri Bovs			. 255	261	254	233				233	22	17	2	
Boys Girls	•••		DOF	285	271	200	239			239	22	19	2	
Mixed	•••		000	348	344			209		209	32	10	0	
Infants	•••		. 226	289	265				231	231	23	5	2	
SLATER STREE	P70								l					
Boys			470	437	400	318				3 18	34	0	10	
Girls	•••		. 227	355	307		237			237	27	4	4	
Infants	•••		. 243	227	291				250	250	24	4	10	
Elbow Lane									ŀ					
Boys	•		. 366	254	242	215		l l		215	21	9	0	
Girls			. 269	297	261		222			222	20	15	3	
Iufants	•••		. 220	321	253		•••		244	244	22	14	8	
BELGRAVE R	OAD.					1				- 1				
Mixed			. 456	522	495			442		442	52	15	6	
Infants	•••		244	277	275		•••		238	238	23	11	10	
ARCHDEACON	STR	To Delta		1					- 1					
Infants			. 155	160	151			l	137	137	13	18	2	
	~			i l										
CHARNWOOD Mixed	STRE		. 1017	973	890	1		791		791	179	14	8	
Infants	•••		000		451	:::		191	387	387	44	2	2	
								'''				_	-	
CHRISTOW ST	REET		004	384	050			010		910	33	15	_ ا	
Mixed Infants	•••		1 000		350 253			316	217	316 217	21	14	11	
THIAMA	•••		- 445	1 200	200		•••	•••	21.	211	21	12	**	
GREAT MEET	ING.		1			1								
Mixed	•••		400	375	400		•••	213		213	32	15	2	
AYLESTONE I	ROAD		1	1		l							ĺ	
Mixed at			250	240	225			215		215	21	17	2	
		_		ŀ		ı							1	
CATHERINE S Mixed	STREE		760	١.	Оре	ned	20th	Sep.	1880	N	retu	rn.		
Infants	•••		4		250	шец	20611	Sep.	173	173	13	14	0	
			_			"						1]	
GLADSTONE S			900	255	990	ļ	}	901	l	901	9	19	0	
Mixed a	na II	uants.	200	7 200	230			201		201	ď	19	١٧	
WILLOW STR	EET.		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	l	l	l	
Mixed			200	320	350			159		159	30	4	3	
		Total	980	9919	9366	1349	1200	2770	2410	7829	930	2	0	
		TOM	1000	TOOTC	1 0000	TOTO	Jan of	12110	IN XYU	1.020	1000		י י	

It should be explained that each child in average attendance costs £1 14s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per annum. Of this sum the Government grant supplies 16s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d., the School Fees give 10s., and the balance to fall on the ratepayers is 8s. per child, which is 5d. in the pound on the rateable value, or a penny per week of schoolrate on each 5s. of weekly rent. The Capital Account, giving the cost of each School, site inclusive, is not however to be lightly passed over:—

£ s. d.

King Richard's Road School, opened August 1874	BJ P	-	~.	٠.
1874 8,505 5 Oxford Street School, opened August 1874 8,883 13 Slater Street School ,, September 1874 7,804 7 Elbow Lane School ,, ,, ,, 7,355 11 Belgrave Road School ,, August 1875 7,668 0 Archdeacon Lane School , altered and reopened December 1875 656 12 Charnwood Street School, opened May 1877 13,013 8 Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877 5,446 7 Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost	Syston Street School, opened January 1874	6,620	10	5
Oxford Street School, opened August 1874 8,883 13 Slater Street School ,, September 1874 7,804 7 Elbow Lane School ,, ,, ,, ,, 7,355 11 Belgrave Road School ,, August 1875 7,668 0 Archdeacon Lane School, altered and reopened December 1875 656 12 Charnwood Street School, opened May 1877 13,013 8 Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877 5,446 7 Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost	King Richard's Road School, opened August			
Slater Street School ,, September 1874 7,804 7 Elbow Lane School ,, ,, ,, 7,355 11 Selgrave Road School ,, August 1875 7,668 0 Archdeacon Lane School, altered and reopened December 1875 656 12 Charnwood Street School, opened May 1877 13,013 8 Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877 5,446 7 School Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost 12,000 0 G	1874	8,505	5	8
Elbow Lane School ,, ,, ,, 7,355 11 8 Belgrave Road School ,, August 1875 7,668 0 6 Archdeacon Lane School, altered and reopened December 1875 656 12 Charnwood Street School, opened May 1877 13,013 8 Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877 5,446 7 8 Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost	Oxford Street School, opened August 1874	8,883	13	8
Belgrave Road School ,, August 1875 7,668 0 Archdeacon Lane School, altered and reopened December 1875 656 12 Charnwood Street School, opened May 1877 13,013 8 Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877 5,446 7 8 Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost	Slater Street School ,, September 1874	7,804	7	3
Archdeacon Lane School, altered and reopened December 1875	Elbow Lane School ,, ,, ,,	7,355	11	8
opened December 1875	Belgrave Road School ,, August 1875	7,668	0	0
Charnwood Street School, opened May 1877 13,013 8 Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877 . 5,446 7 8 Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost	Archdeacon Lane School, altered and re-	•		
Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877 5,446 7 8 Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost 12,000 0 0	opened December 1875	656	12	1
Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880, probable cost 12,000 0 0	Charnwood Street School, opened May 1877	13,013	8	1
probable cost 12,000 0 (Christow Street School ,, Nov. 1877	5,446	7	8
	Catherine Street School ,, Sept. 1880,			
£77,953 16 (probable cost	12,000	0	0
	£	77,953	16	6

A capital expenditure of £78,000 per annum within nine years (threatening to be continued at the rate of £4,000 per annum in perpetuity), would need to rest in judicious hands. Probably £20,000 more may be added for the new Industrial School at Desford (the necessity of which I am free to admit). The coming controversy may be expected over the abolition of school fees, for it is scarcely a logical position to both compel attendance at school and also to exact school fees, even to the small amount of 2d. weekly per head. On the present School Board all the "isms" are decently well represented, and the following is its composition:—

1880-1882 INCLUSIVE.

Rev. W. Evans	Mr. Ellis	Mr. Rice
Rev. E. Atkins	Mrs. Evans	Mr. Sedgwick
Rev. L. Clayton	Mr. Fleming	Mr. Walker
Mr. Canner	Mr. Goodacre	Mr. Ward, and
Mr. Collier	Mr. Merrick	Rev. Joseph Wood (chairman)

The satisfactory educational progress of scholars is seen at a glance from the following table:—

Percentage of passes in	Stand.	Stand.	Stand.	Stand.	Stand.	Stand.
1876	74.8	82.6	75.2	87.4	67.6	57.5
1877	80.0	86.1	83.6	82.7	86.5	70.0
1878	84.8	88.4	84.0	81.4	84.7	80.4

The total percentage of passes was:—1876, 77.3; 1877, 82.7; and 1878, 85.2. As an instance of well-directed beneficence, the Rev. Joseph Wood says:—"After the power to read, it is of the first importance that the love of reading should be fostered by giving children access to suitable literature. Through the thoughtful generosity of the Mayor (John Bennett, Esq.), a well-selected Library of Children's Books has been placed in each or our Schools at a total cost of £200. This most acceptable gift, of the Mayor's, will not only connect the school-life of our scholars with pleasant associations, but will carry into many a home a refining and elevating influence, the benefits of which will be felt far and wide."

BANQUET TO LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE VETERANS—INKERMAN DAY, 1877.

For many years, my admiration of and gratitude to the local, naval, and military heroes of England—who had upheld the honour of the red-cross flag on every sea and in every clime—had sought practical expression. At length a dinner of 66 urban veteran medalists, in the old Town Hall, in June, 1877, formed a fitting opportunity for ventilating the scheme of a more comprehensive gathering. I offered to subscribe £5, Mr. Benj'n. Shelton, a Crimean hero, followed, and only a hint was necessary to enlist the enthusiastic energy of Colonel (now Major-General) Burnaby in the organization of a celebration, comprising a banquet, a military concert, and an assault-at-arms, on a scale of magnificence that would make the veterans of town and county feel young again in the knowledge that their arduous services for Queen and country had engraven themselves on the hearts of their civilian compatriots. Though, as Honorary Secretary, I gave up

my time to and threw every energy into the congenial task, I willingly confess that in view of the method, elan, and indomitability of the "Hero of Inkerman," I had gladly to acknowledge willing subordination to the masterly qualities which go to constitute a successful leader of men. Subscriptions came in from their Royal Highnesses Field-Marshal the Prince of Wales and Field-Marshal the Duke of Cambridge, and a galaxy of patriotic noblemen and gentlemen; and the programme of an unprecedented re-union was eventually published under the commanding patronage and management now detailed:—

PATRONS:

The Duke of Rutland, K.G.. Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and Hon. Col. Leicestershire Militia.

The Mayor of Leicester.

General Faber, Hon. Colonel 17th Leicestershire Regiment.

Lieutenant-General Howe, C.B., Hon. Colonel Leicestershire Yesmanry.

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry de Bathe, Commanding the Northern District.

Colonel Rickman, Commanding the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire

Sub-district.

PRESIDENT:

Colonel Burnaby, Grenadier Guards

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Colonel Owen Williams, Royal Horse Guards. Colonel J. E. Watson, F. P. Royal Artillery. Celonel R. Burnaby, Royal Engineers. Lieutenant-Colonel Wigram, Coldstream Guards. Lieutenant-Colonel G. Gosling, Scots' Guards. Lieutenant-Colonel W. Markham, late Coldstream Guards. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir F. T. Fowke, Leicestershire Militia, Major P. Mosley, late 11th Hussars. Major A. G. Hazlerigg, Royal Scots' Fusiliers. Major W. Pearson, late 95th Regiment. Major F. Palmer, late 36th Regiment. Captain Lord Carington, Royal Horse Guards. Captain J. A. Craven, Royal Horse Guards. Captain F. G. Burnaby, Royal Herse Guards. Captain J. W. Baillie, late Royal Horse Guards. Captain Hartopp, late 10th Hussars.

Captain Henry, late 14th Hussars. Captain Lord Manners, Grenadier Guards. Captain R. H. Watson, 17th Regiment.

Captain E. F. Dawson, late Inniskilling Dragoons.

Captain T. C. D. Whitmore, late Royal Horse Guards.
Captain Gibsone, late 17th Lancers.
Captain A. H. G. Richardson, Royal Navy.
Lieutenant F. Woolaston, Queen's Bays.
Lieutenant W. H. B. Heygate, Royal Artillery,
Lieut W. P. Warner, 18th Hussars.
Lieutenant Hon. H. T. Wilson, Grenadier Guards.
Lieutenant E. P. Elmhirst, 9th Regiment.
Lieutenant Hon. M. Curzon, Rifle Brigade.
The Earl of Lanesborough, late Royal Navy.
The Earl of Wicklow, late 11th Hussars.
Sir Archdale Palmer, late Rifle Brigade.
C. W. Chaplin, Esq., late 48th Regiment.
C. D. Barwell, Esq. late 90th Regiment.
H. Coventry, Esq., late Grenadier Guards.

TREASURER:

Captain R. V. S. Grimstone, late Captain 98rd Highlanders, Chief Constable of Liecestershire.

> Hon. SEc. : Mr. Robert Read, Junr.

Working Committee:

Master-Gunner Bentley, Royal Artillery. Mr. Robert Waterfield, late 32nd Regiment. Sergeant Atkinson. Leicestershire Militia.

A local paper has said that the re-union was successfully matured "by one arduous and gigantic effort on the part of Colonel Burnaby and Mr. Read;" adding that it "formed a never to be forgotten incident in the annals of Leicester." Colonel Burnaby was the magician whose wand conjured up the magnificent entertainment, there was singular appropriateness in fixing the great day of the feast for the 5th of November, 1877. That was the anniversary of the calamitous victory achieved by incomparable English loyalty and endurance on the blood-dyed heights of Inkerman, when the Colonel (then Captain, now General) with heroic courage and masterly strategy, backed by a few score of valiant devoted spirits, saved the colours of the Grenadiers from 2,000 Russians, urged wildly on by priestly fanacticism and the rare spectacle of English colours in retreat, and protected by only two "small clumps" (as Kinglake, the historian, phrases it) of British uniforms. Up to the hour of assembling, my premises in Southgate Street,

on 5th November, 1877, resembled a gay, military fair, through the crowds of veterans trooping in to renew the ribbons of their innumerable decorations. At 4 p.m., the 221 Leicester medalists were joined by the 144 County medalists, whom the Midland and London and North Western Railway Companies had conveyed into town at a single fare—which fare was afterwards repaid to the veterans, by the Committee, for the double journey, accompanied by a ticket for lodgings and breakfast next morning. Faute de mieux, after amicably arranging the delicate question of precedency between horse and foot, I formed them into fours, and, to the inspiriting strains of the Drum and Fife Band of the Grenadiers, marched them to the Corn Exchange, via Newarke, Belvoir and Granby Streets, which were lined all the way by immense, enthusiastically cheering crowds of the town's folk of both sexes and all ages. Armed with their free invitation cards, the veterans—passing through a guard of honour of 100 Leicester volunteers, under the command of Captain Gibson-entered the banqueting hall, and a thrill of delight vibrated through each as they glanced at the grand coup d'ail of decoration prepared (under the superintendence of Colour-Sergeant Atkinson) to do them honour. "Success to British Heroes" was the leading motto, and around the rays of a sun-burst, artistically composed of ramrods, appeared the eloquent word "Inkerman;" while from between flags and bannerets, garlands and devices in ancient armour and modern arms, peeped the talismanic names of "Alma," "Inkerman," "Balaclava," and "Sebastopol." Meantime, the preparation of viands suitable to the jovial occasion had been proceeding apace. By the help of one of Councillor Jessop's steam engines and a gratuitous supply of coke and gas from the Gas Company, two bucks-one presented by Earl Howe, Gopsall Hall and the other by Sir A. B. C. Dixie, Bosworth Park—had been done to a turn; 66 plum puddings were ready to be dragged juicily steaming from the mighty cauldron presented by John of Gaunt to Trinity Hospital—used for the first time since the Queen's coronation; bountiful supplies of game and joints from town tradesmen (including Messrs. Payne and West) were simultaneously ready; and when Colonel Burnaby had inspected and sympathetically chatted with the veterans they seated themselves at Mr. Fox's groaning tables, when the "Roast Beef of Old England" was invitingly sounded. As beer and wine flowed amber and incarnadine the tongues of the warriors were unloosed, and they "fought their battles o'er again" or graphically related the "moving accidents" of tramp or camp. The bands of the Grenadiers, and the Leicestershire Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteers played symposiac music varied by the shrill pibroch of the Pipers of the Scots Guards, and when the order of business came to be the toast from the chair—

Let us pledge in a bumper our noble Queen!
Vive la compagnie!
Loud let the echoes of loyalty ring!
Vive la compagnie!
Vive, vive, vive la Reine!
Vive la Reine et vive l' esprit!
Vive la compagnie!—

surely never did such hearty shouts ring from lusty throats. The Mayoral chain of Alderman Winterton rattled again at the contagion, which even carried away all the sedate occupants of the raised dais, where sate, in addition to His Worship and the "Hero of Inkerman," Sir Archdale Palmer, Colonel Knight, Major Millican, Captain Burnaby (of Khiva and Cockles' Pills renown), Captain Greatorex (for 30 years a light dragoon), Captains Richardson, Goodchild, Smith, Gibsone and Goode: Hussey Packe, Esq.; Aldermen Stafford and Barfoot; Messrs. Israel Hart, J. Jessop, W. Gleadow, J. Levy, J. Sladen, Farndale, (C.C), Harrison (Coroner), H. Dean, F. Palmer, J. Mitchell, R. D. Miles, J. Richards, H. E. Emberlin, S. Sidley, Dr. Buck, &c., &c. Renewed again and yet again were those stentorian plaudits, as the medalists were called upon to express their appreciation first of the Royal Family and then of their Commander-in-Chief. Then they drank to their still active comrades of the "Army" and "Navy" with the becoming warmth of camaraderie. Here followed a thrilling episode. Mr. Crofts of Cosby, the oldest naval veteran, born in 1797 and Mr. W. Green, the oldest army veteran, born in 1783, were carried shoulder high to the vicinity of the chair to respond for each branch of the service. Mr. Green delared that "If his eyes prevented him from taking aim, he still had strength in the right arm to fire a shot." The old gentleman, now 97 years old, though feeble and dull of hearing, is still alive and, the other day, gave me a warm welcome at 21, Framland Street. A few particulars of his eventful military career, as related by himself will. I feel assured, interest my readers, even the most peaceful of civilians. He was born at Lutterworth in 1784, and enlisted into the Leicester Militia in June 1803, at the early age of 19. While stationed at Canterbury he, along with about 150 comrades, volunteered into the 95th Regiment, now the Rifle Brigade and joined in November, 1805, the expedition, under General Doun, to check the French in Low Germany. This was called by the soldiers the "Coffee Expedition," because there was no fighting. After returning to England, the Rifles were ordered to Sweden with the army under command of the immortal Sir John Moore to assist the Swedes against the Prussians. Here again there was no fighting but an anchorage of six weeks in Gothenburg harbour, and a voyage back to England to be ordered out to Copenhagen, under Lord Cathcart, in July, 1807. Here Mr. Green took part in the capture of Copenhagen, and yet remembers with unction his pleasant quarters at the King of Denmark's Country Palace where, as he says, "rum, wine, brandy and the best eatables in Denmark were profusely provided for us." There was a tender heart about Green, for as the victorious forces sailed homewards he pitifully "thought what a ruinous plight Denmark must be in, their crops destroyed, a great part having been eaten by the British Cavalry; their fine city burned, and the whole of their fine fleet gone, with all the stores in the Arsenal!" On his return to England, after a sojourn at Hythe Colchester and Portsmouth, Mr. Green formed one of the expedition to Portugal in April, 1808. Seven days after Vimiera, he marched over the battle-field where many English, Portuguese and French lay unburied. An armistice having been concluded Sir John Moore led his forces into Spain, where they lay quartered in the villages around Salamanca. Then followed that episode which caused Sir John's 250 miles' retreat to Corunna, commenced on 23rd December, 1808, namely, the cowardly laying down of their arms by 50,000 Spanish troops. Mr. Green pathetically says :-- "We did not mind parting with our kits, our orders must be obeyed, so we left them by the road

side. But we then had enough to carry; fifty rounds of ball cartridge; 30 loose balls in our waist belts; a flask and a horn of powder; and rifle and sword, the two weighing fourteen pounds. These were plenty for us to carry; with empty bellies and the enemy (under Marshal Soult) close at our heels thirsting for our blood." Pace anti-tobacco agitators, our veteran says!

—"Those who could use tobacco held out the best. I was one of this number." The horses of the hussars were knocked up and shot at the rate of 30 or 40 per day and the riders carrying their saddle-bags on their shoulders "would have to walk with knee boots and spurs, in the best manner they could to Corunna." Our hero had the misfortune to fall into a well. As he rhymes it:—

My cap was gone, my head was bare; 'Twas a cold, dark night I do declare! My sword likewise was broke in two; And O, I thought, "What must I do?"

While limping away the French came up and he fell down, having the luck to remain unobserved, because his dress like his name was green! I am sure Leicester was not then the Emporium of the boot and shoe trade, for having donned a pair of new boots, the soles dropped off within a six miles' walk. Then fell Sir John Moore, whose burial has been immortalised in the well-known lines:—

We buried him darkly at dead of night,
The sods with our bayonets turning,
By the struggling moonbeams' misty light,
And the lantern dimly burning.
No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Not in short or in shroud we wound him

Not in sheet or in shroud we wound him; But he lay like a warrior taking his rest, With his martial cloak around him.

Well, the English overpowered were literally driven into the shipping, and Mr. Green relates that on 3rd February "such a lot of ragamuffins never landed at Portsmouth before." A brief period in Hythe Barracks and then off again, largely recruited from the Militia, went the Rifle Brigade from Dover to Lisbon and onwards to Talavera too late for the battle, the carnage of which so affected the new-comers that one young rifleman "so

sickened that he went to the hospital and died." Retreating before Marshal Soult, provisions were very deficient, and instead of bread the men were served with a little flour, which they made into small balls and boiled, calling them doughboys. This led to a conversation between Mr. Green and another Lutterworth lad. "Bill," said the lad, "I think we shall be kept on this Dough-boy Hill till we shall all die of want." Green replied, "I think so too;" adding, "It is Lutterworth Feast to-day: our friends will be eating the plum pudding and roast beef." Executions for desertion were numerous. Rifles rubbed along, some sinking under privations and others falling in skirmishes; Pensioner Green meanwhile having passed through hair-breadth escapes, had learned the bugle and been made a bugler. Then, on the 20th of January, Ciudad Rodrigo was taken by storm, and ho! for Badajoz; at the storming of which Green was bugler to the forlorn hope. provisions for the fighting men were "half-a-pound of bread and a gill of rum," and "outside of this," as the vulgar phrase goes, off they went on their desperate errand. Green was hors de combat before reaching the ditch, with one ball in the groin and another, which felt like a six-pounder, through his left wrist. Even thus, hearing his bugle-major sound the "advance" and the "double-quick," Green says:-"I rolled on my back and repeated the sound: this was the last time I blew the bugle." Well, he is still, after the lapse of 67 years of pensionership, able to sound his own trumpet, and anyone desirous of seeing a real old disabled veteran, who has been rewarded by his country with the magnificent pension of 1s. 6d. per day, might do worse than call at 21, Framland Street. toasting the "Veterans," Colonel Burnaby drew attention to the splendid "military spirit" developed for generations in the manly sons of Leicester and Leicestershire, some of whom were to be found—in larger proportion than the men of other districts-in the 7th Hussars, the Royal Artillery, the Guards, 17th (Leicestershire), 19th, 45th, 65th, 82nd, and 95th, afterwards Rifle Brigade, Royal Marines and Army Service Corps. fact, I am proud to know that the men of my native town and county have been always more ready when wanted than anywhere else in England. This must be "a hard nut to crack" for the "political parsons" of the "metropolis of dissent."

To return to the Banquet. The most impressive scene, and the one that will live longest in the memory of everyone present, was Colonel Burnaby's graceful, heartfelt tribute to "the memory of their Comrades of the Past," who had been buried, as they would have chosen to be, on the spot where they gloriously fell, with "their backs to the field and their foot to the foe." The toast was honoured amid a silence more eloquent than oratory or music, and there was a look on the face of each veteran as if the spirit of some specially dear comrade was, for the moment, looking in his eye, grasping his hand, and cheerily toasting him back as in the olden time in vine-clad Spain, sunny France, the coral-stranded Orient, the deadly Crimea, the "dark Continent," or wherever they marched shoulder to shoulder with "three cheers for the red, white, and blue." Those delighful drummers of the Grenadier Guards are a standing proof that Colonel Burnaby has got a keen eye-or rather, in this case, a cultivated ear-for the "eternal fitness of things." military, naval, and patriotic songs charmed every listener and infused such melody into the feast as

> When Music, heavenly maid, was young, And first, in ancient Greece, she sung.

Not without reluctance did the convivial party leave the table, but time flies, and the hour-8.30-having arrived for the martial and musical tournament in the Floral Hall, the veterans were again formed into fours and marched thither from the Corn Exchange amid a blaze of "Greek fire," and within a lurid avenue of red-coated Volunteers, waving flaming torches. Never since has there been such a gathering in the Floral Hall. No fewer than 7,000 spectators assembled, quite as much to do reverence to the "British Heroes," as to enjoy the entertainment. The Hall itself was gay with flags-supplied here as at the Exchange by Mr. Billson-historical with the names-still visible—of every battle on England's roll of glory. The feats of arms were superb, Sergeant-Major Manship, of the Coldstream Guards, brilliantly distinguishing himself. The instrumental and vocal programme was a veritable feast of music from the original "Inkerman March," composed for the occasion by Mr.

Dan Godfrey, to the thunderous climax of euphony, penetrated by the "skirling" pipes, when all the five bands already named joined in the execution of the "British Army Quadrilles." At the conclusion, the veterans separated, those in town to their homes, and those from the country to the several lodgings provided for them. They re-assembled to breakfast at the Corn Exchange in the morning, at the close of which the prevailing feeling that throbbed under those ribands and medals may be fitly expressed in the felicitous terms of the Masonic toast—"Happy to meet; sorry to part; happy to meet again." On this reunion of veteran medalists, I look back with unalloyed satisfaction, and am only sorry that the noble example of Leicester has not been followed by other military centres.

LEICESTER MILITARY CENTRE.

HE unfair feeling of prejudiced people, who eight years ago expressed themselves anxious to shunt soldiers "anywhere, anywhere out of "their little, local "world," has happily died in Leicester. For the period it existed, their resistance to the "Military Centre" was hot and uncharitable. First of all, they forgot the debt of gratitude owing by them to the brave men who set store by neither life nor limb when called upon to maintain or advance the stainless Union Jack. Then, they gratuitously imagined a series of moral and physical evils as the natural outcome of a resident soldiery. Worst of all, if the prejudiced people really believed in these resulting evils, they exhibited a spirit very unlike that of Christianity in seeking to save themselves from the so-called disastrous results by inflicting them on the civilians of Nottingham or any other conveniently distant district. The truth is that just as a scarlet coat is more conspicuous than that of a neutral-tinted civilian, in that very degree the soldier-who can be "bull's-eved" instantaneously-has to be extra circumspect in behaviour, when off duty. The uniformly excellent behaviour of the Depot at the Glenn Parva Barracks, ever since the date it was stationed there, should be a standing reproach to the perhaps "unco guid" but certainly far from charitable individuals, who would have denied to men, mainly, as it happens, drawn from Leicester and Leicestershire, a comfortable resting place, in this vicinity, after the perils and privations of an Afghan Campaign. So strongly did I entertain the conviction that our soldiers should be com-

pensated—(and that on the very spot selected by the War Office. from strategic and sanitary reasons)—by comfortable domicile at home for danger and endurance abroad, that I undertook to personally obtain signatures to a memorial in favour of the formation of a Military Centre at Leicester. People of all classes, parties and creeds willingly gave their autographs, and I was able to send, through the proper channel, to Lord Cardwell a powerful petition with a splendid array of 2,600 signatures. The energy, with a like object in view, of Captain C. S. Smith, of the Volunteers. I should be ungrateful to leave unnoticed. The County Magistrates met and endorsed the scheme with their approval, and our representative Corporation, in Hall assembled, had the good sense to resolve to remain neutral and interpose no opposition should the War Office Authorities decide on the selection of Leicester; which they finally did, on 16th February, 1872. Since, there has arisen, at a cost of some £100,000, the immense rectangular piles of buildings, in red brick with stone facings, which are quite familiar to the majority of Leicester people from the visits paid to the quarters of our now agreeably localised defenders. In the summer and autumn, Glenn Parva became, practically, a salubrious health-resort for soldiers just returned from Indian or other foreign service. In winter, perhaps, the locality may not be quite so pleasant, for the flat land forming the site of the Barracks, is the highest in the district, and exposed to every wind that blows; while a three miles' tramp back to Glenn Parva on a winter's night is quite enough to obliterate from a soldier's mind the delights of civilian society left behind in Leicester. Rather against accepted notions of military tactics, both water and gas have had to be conveyed in pipes from the Corporation Works; but there is no chance of intestine troubles putting the mains in danger, and in other respects the garrison could stand a siege; while from the proximity of the Barracks to both Wigston and Blaby Stations, detachments could be whirled by railway at the shortest notice to any point where their services might be required. Within the walls, several Regiments could go under canvas on the level plateau. Indeed, I hear it is probable this will be the camping ground of the Leicestershire Militia during their annual training next summer-a probability which may set the Staff sur-

mising how much longer they will enjoy their present comfortable quarters within the precincts of the ancient Magazine! There are the usual dead monotony and ungracious lines in the architecture, and over the little colony there hangs a certain gaol-like hush; but nothing is wanting conducive to perfect order, convenience, drainage, ventilation and general sanitation. There are separate sections for the officers' quarters, the hospital, the married quarters, the culinary department, the canteens, the workshops, &c., &c., and the absence of residential cosiness perhaps strikes only the civilian visitor. The kitchen—if that small term can be applied to a place where "dinners for a thousand" can be cooked—is replete with the newest mechanical contrivances in stoves, ranges and utensils. Of course, there is a little more amenity in the region sacred to the valiant wearers of gold lace, but the comfort of the non-commissioned officers and men is by no means neglected, so far as military precedent can be allowed to unbend. In the married quarters much good taste is displayed in the arrangement of surprisingly excellent furniture, pictures, curtains, &c., which has conquered the bleakness of whitewashed brick walls. An excellent school is provided for the children, the numbers of whom, sturdy and blooming, could not be outrivalled in the most salubrious and prolific rural parish. The Sergeants have their billiard-table and other games, and abundant opportunities of literary recreation; while the privates possess facilities for playing bagatelle, chess, draughts, &c., or even "a hand with the paste-boards." I should be very glad to see a swimming bath attached to the gymnasium. Ladies and gentlemen, interested in the well-being of our soldiers, might do much by adding their contributions to the nucleus of the library, or to the supply of magazines and newspapers. Solids and liquids are obtained from the careful canteensteward, at a fixed and reasonable scale of prices, and generally the soldier may be inclined to agree that for once "his lot has fallen unto him in pleasant places." It is truly satisfactory to find that crime and consequent punishment have been, comparatively speaking, at a surprising discount. I hope to see the "Military Centre" visited, and its occupants taken an interest in by ladies and gentlemen who have leisure and inclination to show sympathy—and occasionally more substantial encouragement—to the British soldier, who has done so much to preserve and spread, by securing peace, the commercial prosperity which is the backbone of England; but who, in spite of all his gallantry in the field and privations in the bivouac, is too often regarded in the United Kingdom as a social pariah.

Glenn Parva Barracks was occupied by the 27th Brigade Depot, on the 26th May, 1880. The detachments composing the Brigade arrived from Norwich on that date, under command of Major H. B. Haywood, 45th Regiment. They comprised the Depot 1/17th Regiment, under command of Brevet-Major S. Bradburne, with Captain W. P. Lonsdale, Lieutenant E. H. Griffith—the three last-named officers having just returned from India: the Depot 2/17th Regiment, under command of Captain A. H. W. Mansergh, with Captain F. F. Robinson, Lieutenant H. M. Short and Lieut. G. F. Shaw; and the Depot 45th Regiment under command of Captain H. S. Neald, with Captain H. Lombarde, Lieutenant E. C. Dowse and Lieutenant J. H. B. Todd-Thornton. For a week previous to the marching in of the Depots, a party, under command of Captain Mansergh, was employed in fitting up the barracks with furniture and utensils, filling beds, &c., and laying in a stock of beer, groceries, &c., in the canteen under the superintendence of the able canteensteward, Color-Sergeant M. S. Connell, 2/17th Regiment. Thus, on the arrival of the Depot, everything was in complete working order. The 27th Brigade Depot is composed of three Regiments, namely:-1st Battalion, 17th Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 17th Regiment and 45th Regiment. To the 27th Brigade Depot are also attached the Loyal Leicestershire Militia, the Nottinghamshire Militia, the Pensioners resident within the district of which Leicester is the "military centre," the Leicestershire Yeomanry, the Leicestershire Volunteers and the Robin Hood Rifles. A history of each corps attached to the Depot follows in due course. The 27th Brigade Depot was at first in charge of Colonel (now Major General) Rickman, who was as popular as he is brave and illustrious. It is now under the command of Colonel Chippindall, a gallant officer, who carries, with true military modesty, the ever-green laurels that naturally grow out of an arduously brilliant career.

THE 17TH (LEICESTERSHIRE) REGIMENT.

Much as I admire the dash of a cavalry charge, there is nothing in tactics so beautiful as the steady advance of the "thin red line" of English infantry which so few foreign armies have been able to break. Splendid physique, cultivated by discipline and drill, and instinct with courage and loyalty, has made our infantry the finest in the world. Throughout the British army, I know of no more heroic regiment, or one that has contributed with greater generosity to the military glory of England, than the renowned 17th. It is chiefly composed of Leicestershire and Nottingham men, the former predominating. It was raised towards the end of the 16th century, and for the early particulars I am indebted to Mr. Richard Cannon's Horse Guards History. At this time, King James, the reigning monarch, ordered twelve regiments to be added to his army, and out of these, two only remain, i.e., the 16th and 17th Foot. The first colonel was Solomon Richards, the date of his commission being the 27th September, 1668. In three weeks the regiment was embodied, clothed, and reported ready for duty. Companies were marched to and stationed at various towns, two of the companies being ordered to mount guard at Windsor Castle. The regiment did not have much rest, for in the following month it was marched to Greenwich, news having arrived of the landing of the Prince of Orange in Devonshire. After King William and Queen Mary had been crowned, on the flight of King James, the 17th was ordered to Ireland to protect those counties whose inhabitants supported the Protestant monarch. The 17th with the 6th and 9th Foot did not reach the vicinity of Londonderry until the 16th April. In the meantime, King James had landed an army in Ireland from France. As the three regiments would have been powerless against the ex-King's army, Colonel Lundy did not allow them to land, and they returned to England.

In 1689, the colonelcy of the 17th was conferred on Sir George St. George. Having been employed on home service for three years up to 1694, the regiment went to Flanders and did some real hard work, though not having an opportunity of going into action. In 1695, Colonel James Courthorpe became colonel of the regiment by exchange, and during this year the

17th saw its first serious engagement. Having been some time employed in protecting the maritime and other towns of Flanders, it took part in a siege, and on the 11th August took its turn for duty on the trenches, and had several men killed and wounded, Captain Hart being killed on the 16th August. The regiment stormed the outworks of the Castle of Namur on the 30th August, following the Grenadiers. These regiments, however, were not supported in the assault, and the 17th was almost annihilated. The colonel was killed, and Lieut.-Colonel Sir Matthew Bridges severely wounded: 101 sergeants and rank and file were killed; 250 officers and men were wounded. Matthew Bridges was promoted to the colonelcy. afterwards the garrison of Namur surrendered, and the 17th marched to winter-quarters at Bruges. During the year 1696, the regiment was recruited to its full strength from England, and although it served with the army in Flanders, it took part in no general engagement. The following year the treaty of Ryswick was signed, and the regiment returned to England and from there removed to Ireland, where it was stationed till 1700.

Another war was resolved upon the following year in consequence of the breaking of existing treaties, and the 17th sailed from Cork to Holland, and in September was reviewed on Breda Heath by William III. This monarch died shortly after, and was succeeded by Queen Anne. During her reign, under the Duke of Marlborough, the 17th met with a series of successes, and marched back to Holland in the year 1702. Colonel Blood had greatly distinguished himself in these lastmentioned engagements, and, in 1703, after the regiment had again taken part with the army in strategic movements against the French, they took part in the siege of Limburg, which surrendered on the 28th September. Lieut.-Colonel Blood succeeded Colonel Sir Matthew Bridges in the colonelcy of the regiment. In the same year the regiment went to Portugal to assist in endeavouring to place the Archduke of Austria on the throne of Spain by force of arms. This campaign occupied many months.

The 17th left Holland in October, and got to Portsmouth, where it was detained by contrary winds. Put to sea in January

of the following year, and after encountering severe weather had to put back, but eventually reached Lisbon on the 15th March, and in July it was encamped near Estremos. At the end of the month the Regiment was distributed amongst the Cantonments in the town, and in the autumn formed part of the force which penetrated into Spain. By the advice of the Portuguese generals, the allied army returned to Portugal for the winter. In April, 1705, the 17th returned to Estremos and subsequently engaged in the siege of Valencia de Alcantara which was taken on the 8th May. The siege and surrender of Albuquerque followed and in this the 17th assisted. Badajoz followed, the 17th again being actively engaged.

On April 10th of the following year, the 17th with the 33rd attacked the convent of St. Francis during the siege of Alcantara. Great gallantry was displayed, and the regiments after taking the place found they had lost 50 men and officers. The 17th was subsequently employed in the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, a fortress which was surrendered on the 26th May. After repeated successes the 17th found themselves with the army in Madrid, but owing to vacillation on the part of King Charles, who should have been at Madrid to be proclaimed, the supporters of King Phillip took courage and the allied armies had to retire from The 17th wintered in the Province of Valencia. the 25th April, 1707, the allied armies again took the field to meet the French and Spanish armies under the Duke of Berwick. at Almanza. The engagement was brought on with great haste and proved most unfortunate to the allied armies. The following account is given of the battle.

After a long march under a burning sun, the soldiers were brought into the presence of their opponents and prepared for battle. The 6th, 17th, 33rd, and Lord Mountjoy's regiments were formed into a brigade under Major-General Wade, and were posted on the flanks of a brigade of cavalry in the front line of the left wing. The battle was commenced by the British Dragoons, who evinced great bravery, but many squadrons of Portuguese cavalry quitted the field in a panic. Major-General Wade's brigade was engaged with nine battalions of French and Spanish infantry when it was joined by the 9th Foot, the five British regiments disputing the ground with sanguinary obstinacy.

But while the contest was raging, a body of fresh French and Spanish cavalry drove back the allied squadrons on the left. The 6th, 9th, 17th, 33rd, and Lord Mountjoy's regiment were bravely contending with seven French and Spanish corps in their front when they were attacked on the flank by two other of the enemies battalions, broken, and driven from the field with great The two battalions which attacked them in the flank were cut to pieces by Harvey's Horse, now the second Dragoons, who were in turn overpowered by the superior numbers of the enemy. The fight still raged in the centre, but the flanks being defeated, the enemy surrounded the centre and inflicted great slaughter. The remains of the English regiments were collected in a body. and being united to some Dutch and Portuguese troops the whole retreated to the woody hills of Caudete. The men were so exhausted with fatigue that they were quite unable to proceed, and they passed the night in the wood without food. On the following morning they were surrounded by the enemy and being without ammunition, ignorant of the country and destitute of provisions, they surrendered as prisoners of war." In the 17th, Lieutenant-Colonel Woollett, Lieutenant-Colonel Withers and Major Leech were killed and nearly all the other officers wounded and taken prisoners. Some officers and soldiers escaped from the field and joined the cavalry under the Earl of Galway at Alcira. The 17th here rallied, and was afterwards joined by others, mustering in all 266 officers and soldiers. On the death of Major-General Blood, Lieutenant-Colonel Wightman was appointed Colonel of the Regiment, and by means of draughts from various regiments, the 17th soon regained its full strength, but after going through the operations of 1708, men fit for duty were transferred to other regiments and the 17th was ordered home. This was in 1709, and in 1710 the regiment was stationed in Scotland, where it remained for four years.

On the breaking out of the rebellion in 1715, led by the Earl of Mar in favor of the Pretender, the regiment was ordered to Stirling, where it was placed under the command of the Duke of Argyle. The 17th took part in an engagement at Sheriff Muir, the King's troops having a slight advantage, and they had seven men killed and five wounded. The regiment under the Duke of Argyle with other regiments pursued the Pretender to

Perth, but the latter afterwards fled. For the next ten years the 17th was stationed in various parts of Great Britain. Major General Wightman died on the 28th September, 1722, and the colonelcy was conferred by King George II on Brigadier-General Thomas Ferrers from the 39th Regiment. This officer died three weeks after and he was succeeded by Colonel James Tyrell. In 1726 the 17th was sent to Minorca, and for 25 years the regiment remained stationed here, going once to assist in military operations at Gibraltar. Lieutenant-General Tyrell died in 1742, and was succeeded by Colonel John Wynyard. From Minorca the regiment was removed to Ireland, and spent six years there.

The uniform was directed by Royal Warrant in 1751 to be scarlet-faced and lined with greyish white. The first or King's colour, to be the great union; the second or regimental to be the red cross of St. George on a white field, with the union in the upper canton; in the centre of each colour the number of the rank of the regiment in gold Roman characters, written in a wreath of roses and thistles on the same stalk. From 1752 to 1757 'the regiment had three Colonels. Lieutenant-General Wynyard died in 1752 and Brigadier-General Edward Richbell was appointed. The latter died on the 24th February, 1757, and was succeeded by Colonel John Forbes of the Scots Greys. For nearly ten years the regiment, which has at all times been very busily engaged wherever this country has been at war, had respite from active service.

A war broke out with France in 1757, and the 17th sailed for Halifax for the purpose of taking part in the attack on the French possessions in Canada, but the expedition was postponed, and the regiment wintered in Nova Scotia. The 17th was at that time a thousand strong, and in June, 1758, it effected a landing at White Point, and was subsequently engaged in the successful siege of Louisburg, which led to the ultimate surrender of the island. On this occasion the regiment had Captain William, Earl of Dundonald, killed. The officers still wear in the gold lace of their dress tunic, &c., a small black cord running through the centre of the gold braid, in token of the battle of Quebec (1758), and in memory of their beloved commander, General Wolfe. The year 1759 was employed in attacking the

French and native Indians, the 17th at all times being successful. In that year they lost their colonel, Brigadier-General Forbes, who was succeeded by the Hon. Robert Monckton. Again, in 1760, the 17th assisted in attacking the French possessions in Canada, and met with a series of successes, which led to the conquest of Canada. In 1761, the regiment traversed the country to New York, from whence it embarked for the West Indies, and in the following year formed part of the force attacking the French West India Islands. This conquest was effected with great gallantry, and without much loss of life.

War broke out in Spain in 1762; the 17th assisted in the attack upon Havannah. The difficulties encountered were great, but the English army was again triumphant. A treaty having been signed, the 17th returned to North America, where it remained till 1796, and returned to England. In 1771 the 17th embarked for Ireland, and in September, 1774, owing to disturbances which had broken out, the regiment returned to North America, and subsequently found itself at Halifax. Here it formed part of a column, under Major-General Grant, on Long Island, and on the 27th August encountered the American army, which it forced to retreat on Brooklyn, with great loss. The 17th afterwards shared in other successes. During the winter the Americans again gave trouble, and Major-General Earl Cornwallis sent orders for the 17th, 40th, and 55th regiments to join him at Princetown.

On the 4th January, 1777, the three regiments were on the march, Lieut.-Colonel Charles Mawhood commanding the 17th, the latter being in advance. General Washington surprised the British with his whole American army. Mawhood, however, finding himself surrounded determined to fight his way through, and with a desperate bayonet charge, such as can only be made by a British regiment, he made his way to the front through the entire American army, and continued the march to Maidenhead. The regiment suffered great loss, among the killed being the Hon. William Lesley, son of the Earl of Leven. This determined charge so electrified the Americans that it gave time for the other two regiments to get away. Soon after, the 17th joined the division advancing upon Philadelphia, and again shared the credit of defeating the enemy. The year 1778 was

employed in repulsing attacks by the enemy, and in 1779 the regiment was on garrison duty in New York, and afterwards removed to Stoney Point. This place, on the 15th July, 1779, was assailed by 4,000 Americans under General Wayne. The regiment was overpowered after a stubborn resistance, Captain Tew and many soldiers being killed. The residue were of course taken prisoners, but soon after exchanged. They were then engaged in various services, until in the year 1781 they were ordered to attack the Americans in the Guildford Court House and were victorious.

Lieut.-General the Hon. Robert Monckton, the colonel of the regiment, died in 1782, when the appointment was conferred on Major-General George Morrison, and it was in this year that orders were issued that henceforth the 17th should bear the additional title of the Leicestershire regiment, so that for nearly 80 years Leicestershire has been the actual recruiting ground for this fine regiment. Peace was concluded with the Americans in the following year, but the regiment remained at Nova Scotia and Newfoundland until 1786, when it embarked for England. Three years later the 17th were employed as marines on board a fleet sent to punish the Spaniards, but there were no hostilities.

In 1792 another change took place in the coloneley of the regiment, the post being given to Major-General George Garth. A few years of home service now intervened, and in 1796 some troubles arose in St. Domingo and the 17th were sent there, but they lost Lieutenant-Colonel Hooke and many of the officers and men of the regiment through disease. The survivors returned to England in 1799, the year in which the militia were allowed to volunteer into the army. No less than 1,500 volunteered for the Leicestershire regiment, and two battalions were formed. The two battalions were sent to Holland to assist the Dutch in freeing themselves from the French, the Russians being our The Duke of York commanded, and the 17th, which formed the two leading battalions, greatly distinguished itself with very slight loss. The army soon returned to England, and in 1800 the 17th proceeded to Minorca. In 1802 it re-embarked for Ireland.

In 1803 the regiment was suddenly ordered from Limerick

to Dublin to quell serious riots, Lord Chief Justice Kilwarden and his nephew, the Rev. Richard Wolfe having been attacked and murdered in their carriage. In 1804 the 17th was at the Isle of Wight and in July of that year sailed for the East Indies, where during the year the health of the officers and men suffered severely from the climate. Strong detachments had to be sent from England to repair the casualties, and the regiment consisting of over 1,200 men was sent to the upper provinces, Cawnpore being the head quarters. In 1806 there was some trouble with the people of the mountainous districts, and there was some gallant fighting by means of the two companies detached, Lieutenant Peter Mc. Gregor being killed in the breach at Chumar. Most praiseworthy deeds are recorded concerning those two companies who rejoined the regiment at Cawnpore, and from thence the 17th marched to Muttra. Five companies then took the field under Lieutenant-Colonel Hardyman for the purpose of attacking the Fort of Comoma. The British did not succeed, but they made such an impression on the natives that they were glad to get away in the darkness. The 17th lost heavily in this attack.

From this time up to the year 1818, the regiment was employed in quelling disturbances which broke out from time to time amongst the natives, and in all the engagements the men displayed such gallantry, that they were frequently eulogised in General Orders. In 1819 Colonel Garth died, his place being taken by Sir Joseph Champagne, G.C.H. In the August of that year Colonel Hardyman was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and was about to be presented with a sword, value £100, when he died. In a very short time, while at Calcutta, the regiment lost eight offcers and 131 soldiers from cholera, and on the 21st December, 1820, the regiment marched to Burhampore. In 1822 it left the latter place for Calcutta to embark for England. Over 400 men volunteered to stay in India.

On the occasion of the regiment leaving India, the following General Order was issued by the Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir E. Paget:—"The Commander-in-Chief feels it to be a just tribute to this old and distinguished corps to express the high character it has always preserved in Europe, and which his Excellency is happy to find has been maintained during a long

service of eighteen years in India. A copy of this Order will be submitted to the gracious notice of his Royal Highness the Duke of York; and the Commander-in-Chief takes this opportunity of wishing the regiment a prosperous voyage, and that it may be able to enjoy its justly-earned reputation." The regiment had been absent from England for nineteen years, and had lost 1,021 men by disease and killed in action. On the 25th June, 1825, his Majesty King George IV. was pleased to approve of the regiment bearing on its colours and appointments the figure of the "Royal Tiger," with the word Hindostan superscribed, as a lasting testimony of the exemplary conduct of the corps during the period of its service in India, from 1804 to 1823. This year the regiment was stationed in Scotland, and in the following year the men all subscribed one day's pay towards the relief of the distressed operatives at Paisley. Until the year 1830 the 17th was stationed in various parts of England and Ireland, and in that year detachments were sent off to New South Wales, until the whole regiment had arrived there. Having sojourned in this part of the world until 1836, the 17th embarked for Bombay.

After two years' residence in India the regiment was called upon to take part in the iuvasion of Afghanistan, rendered necessary for the protection of the frontiers of the Indian Empire. It was thus that in the year 1839 the regiment found itself encamped near Candahar, after a successful march through the country, and from Candahar the men marched on until they found themselves before Ghuznee, a fortress of great strength, garrisoned by 3,000 Afghans, and every gate except one blocked up with masonry. One fine morning one of the principal gates was destroyed by an explosion of gunpowder, and the British troops rushing in captured the fortress. The 17th led the assault on the citadel, and soon after, with little loss, its colours were seen floating on the summit, the regiment having also captured a standard from the enemy, which, however, was afterwards lost in the wreck of a transport. Triumphant marches were then made for the capital, Cabul, and Shah-Shooja-ool-Moolk was restored to his seat on the throne. Marching from Cabul towards India, the 17th was detached to punish the Khan of Khelat. The 17th, with the assistance

of the 31st Bengal regiment, charged into the town in the face of 2,000 Beloochees, who disputed every inch of ground. The Khan and many of his followers were slain, while the 17th suffered but little loss. Here also a standard was taken from the enemy. Deeds of bravery were done by many of the 17th, and the names of Sergeants J. Dunn and Mills are particularly mentioned. A medal was presented for this war, and Her Majesty was graciously pleased to approve of the regiment wearing on its colours the words "Afghanistan," "Ghuznee," and "Khelat." Lieut.-Colonel Croker and Major Pennycuick were nominated Companions of the Order of the Bath. Other honours were conferred, and the regiment returned to Bombay in 1840, and during that year and the next it visited several places in India.

On the 5th October, 1841, a detachment of 600 men traversed 40 miles of country in 22 hours, and in the hottest part of the day punished a strong Arab force which had caused much inconvenience by preventing supplies coming into India. The chief event in the year 1842 was the death of General Sir Frederick. Augustus Wetherall, G.C.H., at the age of 88, after serving 67 He was succeeded in the colonelcy by Lieutenant-General Sir Peregrine Maitland. The regiment was at Aden in 1843 and 1844, and with the exception of a few skirmishes with the natives, very little occurred during the remainder of the period the 17th was detained in India, and on the 6th August 1847, the regiment landed at Gravesend and marched to Canterbury. Here the regiment, still in Indian dress, was inspected by General Sir George Brown, who highly complimented the men for their appearance on parade. The heat was intense, and the General very generously bought up all the baskets of fruit offered for sale on the Cavalry Barracks Square, and ordered them to be distributed among the soldiers, to whose parched throats the refreshment was very grateful.

The next move was to Dover, where the right wing was quartered at the Heights, and the left wing at the Castle. Five months after, in April 1848, the 17th was moved to Millbank, and for 12 days assisted, along with the 2nd Battalion of Grenadiers, one troop of the Horse Guards Blue, and one troop of the Life Guards, in preventing Chartist disturbances. Thence the

regiment, under Colonel Stite, a fine old Peninsular officer; familiarly known as "five-fingered Jack" because the fingers of his right hand were shot away in battle, proceeded to Portsmouth and thence to Chatham, Canterbury, Weedon, and thence via Liverpool to Dublin in 1850, by the screw steamer "Iron Duke." Immediately after being served with 60 rounds of ball ammunition, in the Riding School of the Royal Barracks, the 17th marched to Mullingar, to quell the O'Brien disturbances. In about a week the district became quiet, and the regiment was split up into detachments, with headquarters at Castlebar and companies throughout the district. There the 17th was inspected by General Napier (now Lord Napier of Magdala), and the bashful boys almost blushed at the praises he showered upon them for neatness and proficiency in drill. To Galway, and thence to Dublin were the next movements, and then there was a comparative rest of two years and four months, distributed amongst all the Barracks in Dublin, except Portobello.

In 1854, the Regiment was, once more, ordered to prepare for foreign service, and a depot was formed for recruiting purposes at Templemore. The headquarters were then ordered to Cork, and thence, in June 1854, embarked in two transports for Gibraltar, arriving there in fifteen days, and remaining on the Rock, in the Casement Barracks for five months. On 1st December, the 17th and a draft of 100 Artillerymen embarked at the New Mold on board the mail steamer "Tamar," landed at Balaclava on the 15th of that month, marched to the front, and went under canvas before Sebastopol as part of the Fourth Division, close to the quarters of Lord Raglan, the Commander-in-Chief. Here the perils of besiegers and the misery of the trenches were borne with exemplary fortitude; the Leicestershire boys acting up to the spirit of the pathetic lines in the "Charge of the Light Brigade."

What though the soldier knew some one had blundered?

Theirs not to make reply;

Theirs not to reason why;

Theirs but to do or die.

The hearts of the men were made glad at hearing of the presents sent them from Leicester; although, alas! these were so "muddled away" in transit, that an old soldier still speaks dolefully of being one of 18 to share one red herring at Christmas.

On the night of the 17th and the early morning of 18th June, 1855, lured by a French signal, the Fourth Division were ordered forward to storm the Redan. It is matter of history that here the whole of the Russian strength was concentrated, so that though the French were able to walk into the empty Malakoff, it was no discredit to the English to be repulsed in the first attack on the Redan. The English blood was up, however, and on the following day after desperate fighting and severe loss, the red, white and blue floated over that redoubtable fortress. The 17th afterwards embarked on board the three-decked man of war "Royal Albert," and, accompanied by the gunboats, proceeded to the Baltic to bombard Kinbourn, the Russian General in command of which speedily surrendered with the 13,000 men under him. The 17th then returned to the Crimea and took part in the final assault and capture of Sebastopol, a name the Regiment proudly wears on its colours and the medalists on their breasts. When they went to join the Crimean Campaign, the 17th was under the command of Colonel McPherson, who had the distinction of wearing more medals and clasps on his breast than the great Duke of Wellington himself. When this gallant veteran was appointed Brigadier-General to Lord Raglan, the command of the Regiment was entrusted to Colonel Arthur Lowrie Cole.

The Regiment left Balaclava in the Spring of 1856, and sailed for Quebec on board the transport "Robert Lowe." Fire breaking out in the hold, when passing through the Dardanelles, the 17th was transferred to the "Vulcan" at Malta, and arrived at Quebec in 75 days. The Regiment was variously quartered at Quebec and Montreal for 9 years and 112 days, and sailed in the Spring of 1866 for Portsmouth, arriving there in 16 days. During all this time the Depot had been at Limerick, and while there supplied non-commissioned officers for the formation, in 1858, of a Second Battalion. The Depot joined head-quarters at Aldershot in 1866.

After a period of home service in England and Ireland, on the 12th January, 1870, the 1st-17th (as the original Battalion

was now styled) embarked at Queenstown for India, and landed at Bombay on the 17th February, the Battalion then being 870 strong, under the command of Colonel (now Brigadier-General) A. H. Cobb. From Bombay the Regiment went to Lucknow, and from thence to Peshawar and Murree Hills, and afterwards to Rawal-Pindee. From the latter station the 1st-17th proceeded to Afghanistan at the commencement of the late Afghan campaign. In that campaign, the battalion took a glorious part, losing five of their officers. Two were killed in action. namely:-Lieutenant Wiseman (nephew of the late Cardinal Wiseman) and Lieutenant Whitby, who was serving as a probationer in the Bengal Staff Corps; and three died through illness contracted during active service in the field, namely :-Captain J. H. Gamble, Lieutenant E. Allfrey and Lieutenant E. H. Watson. After the treaty of Gandamak, the 1st Battalion was detained at Lundi-Kotal, and, in consequence of illness contracted during the campaign, the men were sent to Nowsheera to recruit their health.

After the second Afghan outbreak and the cowardly assassination of Major Cavagnari, the 1st-17th proceeded to With "Khelat" and "Ghuznee" inscribed on their colours, the men of the 1st Battalion could look back with pardonable pride on the prodigies of valour performed by the Leicestershire Regiment at the taking of the former, when one company and some Sepoys, under command of Captain (afterwards Sir James) Outram, stormed the hills and forced immense odds of the Belooches to fly in terror before his heroic handful, whilst the remainder of the Regiment was doing brave work in another part of the field. The 1st Battalion has been moved from Peshawar to Jhansi and Gwalior, and expects to return to England during the trooping season of 1881-82. It is at present commanded by Lieut.-Colonel W. D. Johnson, C.B. The Regiment-both the 1st and 2nd Battalions-wears the Royal Tiger and continuous laurel in token of its glorious services in India, with "Hindostan," "Afghanistan," "Ghuznee," "Khelat," and "Sebastopol" on its colours.

Very appropriately for the Leicestershire Regiment, its Colonel is Richard William Penn, Earl Howe, who served as Aide-de-Camp to Sir George Cathcart in the Kaffir War, 1852—3 (medal), for which service he was promoted to the Brevet rank of Major. His lordship also served at the siege of Delhi in 1857, as Acting Quarter-Master-General of the Queen's Troops, through which the Earl was enable to write himself Colonel and C.B. and wear Medal with Clasp.

From this rapid review of the glorious deeds of a famous and historic Regiment, it will be seen that the 1st-17th especially has for two centuries been renowned for its valour, and on nearly all occasions has been the first to be selected for Foreign service. It is a Regiment recruited principally from the population of the county, and one of which Leicestershire can be and is justly proud.

17TH LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT.

SECOND BATTALION.

In view of the formation of 25 Second Battalions, the Depot of the 17th at Limerick furnished, in 1858, the first non-commissioned officers and men of the 2nd Battalion. Among those who formed the first parade were Major McKinstry and Ensign and Adjutant Ross. The staff of non-commissioned officers comprised the following:—Monk, Draycott (now Quarter-Master, Sergeant, Royal Leicestershire Militia), Fowler, Riley, Cole, Summers, Dexter, Tancred, West and Cashin (late Sergeant-Major of the 2nd Battalion, now of the Leicestershire Volunteers). While stationed at Limerick, the 2nd Battalion was joined by the Leicestershire Militia, and the two contingents of Woolybacks feelingly realised the sentiment of the song!—

O Limerick is a purty place,
As every body knows;
The river Shannon's full of fish,
That through the city flows.
The Limerick girls are beautiful—

But I pause there, lest I should recall to my sensitive veterans Irish memories that would disturb the serenity of the "sere and yellow leaf." They moved (on the 22nd April, 1858) from Limerick to Cork. Colonel H. D. Crofton assumed, at Maker

Heights and Picklecomb, the command of the Battalion-then 120 strong, exclusive of a draft of 16 non-commissioned officers transferred from the 1st Battalion, then at Quebec. Having moved from the Citadel, Plymouth, on the 1st August, the 2nd Battalion for the first time took regular turns of garrison duty which was then very severe; the daily guards consisting of 2 Captains, 14 Subalterns, 10 Sergeants, 16 Corporals, 4 Drummers and 193 Privates. After an inspection on the 12th May, 1859, Field Marshal, H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge complimented the Commanding Officer on the efficiency of the Regiment. was something like campaigning to be under canvas in those days, and so the Battalion found it on 1st July, 1859, when having left Plymouth, they encamped on Cove Common, Alder-Fourteen men were crowded into each tent, and each man received one blanket, but neither waterproof, tick nor straw.

After thus "roughing it" for seven weeks, the Battalion formed part of a flying column, which marched to Woolmer Forest, Cæsar's Hill, Sandhurst, and back to Aldershot. There the men of the Second Battalion were quartered in the East Block Barracks. The 29th of August, 1860, saw them on their way to the routine life of Shorncliffe Camp, and on the 22nd April, 1861, they were en route for Dublin, where they arrived on the 25th April and were quartered in Richmond Barracks. I dare say many a Dublin "Colleen" still remembers the next six weeks when, no doubt, some one of "our boys" would tell her the old, old story!—

Beauty lies in many eyes. But love in thine, my Nora Creina.

Then away to the Curragh of wild Kildare, there, doubtless, to be "off with the old love and on with the new." In December of this year there were sounds of Transatlantic thunder in the air. The "Trent" affair created a stir among our troops at home, 10,000 of whom were under orders to cross the "herring pond." The men of the 2/17th for the first time were detailed for foreign service, and after spending a merry Christmas at Cork, the Head-quarters embarked on the 27th December, 1861, and sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia. The remaining four companies, with two batteries R.A., drafts, &c., embarked on board

the troop-ship "Mauritius" and sailed from Cork, on the 28th January, 1862.

The Head-quarters had a prosperous voyage, not so this latter portion of the Battalion. The passage lasted 28 days, and the "Mauritius" had to make for St. John's, Newfoundland, to coal. She sailed for two days and nights through fields of ice, and was fourteen days "hove-to" in a storm, by which she lost foremast, jibboom, and rudder, and was for several hours at the mercy of the waves. Seventeen horses of the 8th Brigade, R.A., died during the storm, and were thrown overboard. An amicable understanding having been arrived at between John Bull and Uncle Sam, the 2nd Battalion remained in Halifax, and were made much of by the "Bluenoses" for nearly four years. When the Jamaica rebellion had broken out, the 2nd Battalion, on 28th October, 1865, sailed from Halifax, on board H.M.S. "Duncan," to take part in quelling it. Passing Hayti on 8th November, and Cuba on 10th November, the "Duncan" arrived at Port Royal, Jamaica, on 16th November. As the insurrection was confined to the eastern portion of the island, the services of the 2nd Battalion were not required, and they returned to Halifax by H.M.S. Aurora and Galatea, landing on 30th December, 1865.

For many acts of kindness—and not least for the ridiculously extravagant Alabama gift of four millions—our American cousins permitted the Fenians to recruit, to acquire arms, and to drill on Yankee soil for the invasion of Canada. A friend has told me of seeing Colonel Kerrigan, the Fenian leader—an ex-policeman of Modern Gotham-advertising at Tammany Hall, New York, for 17,000 men to work a gold mine on the banks of the St. Lawrence—in other words, inviting 17,000 filibustering recruits to join a raid into the New Dominion; while mongrel Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotsmen-many of them deserters from the "red, white, and blue"-eagerly grasped the bounty. British loyalty then shone out pre-eminently in the colony. Wherever the youth of Canada were engaged in business under the stars and stripes, thence they flocked homewards and formed themselves into Volunteer corps to meet and defeat the paltry invader, who owed any equipment he possessed to the savings of

well-meaning, but ignorant, Irish "helps." Hence the swinging marching song, of which the following is the chorus:—

Tramp, tramp, tramp: the boys are marching!

Cheer up comrades, we will come, we will come,
And beneath the Union Jack,

We will drive the Fenians back

From our own beloved Canadian home.

A few gallant youths of the Toronto "Queen's Own" fell by stray shots ere the raiders ran from Ridgeway over the border, on the southern side of which the Yankees, with customary acuteness, confiscated the rifles, of which, a few weeks before, they had been the vendors.

It was to be a mainstay to these Volunteers that the 2-17th sailed to Quebec on June 4th, 1866, from Quebec to Montreal on 10th June, and from Montreal to Toronto on 12th July; detachments being also sent to Kingston, Brantford, and elsewhere. During all these years the 2-17th performed much hard work, but earned little glory. The Colonial Office having caught the cheese-paring fever-which appears to periodically attack Downing Street—the fiat went out that the Imperial troops in Canada must be reduced. The colonists felt rather sore at the idea that they should be expected, unaided, to be a buffer between Yankeedom and the mother-land, but there was no remedy; for the Colonial, like every other department, has to submit to the whims or necessities of a retrenching Chancellor of the Exchequer. Accordingly, after enjoying for two more quiet years the genial hospitality of the Canucks-at their "bees" and "surprise parties "-the 2-17th proceeded to Quebec, and after a last glance at the glory-decked Heights of Abraham, sailed for the "old sod" on the 16th May, 1868, and, after a pleasant voyage, debarked at Dublin on the 30th of the same month, being stationed in the Royal Barracks.

On 13th October, the 2-17th proceeded to Mullingar to act as custodians of the lives, limbs and property of the peaceful citizens of Roscommon and Sligo, during the rather excited general election. Nothing, however, required military interference for the perfervid Hibernians confined themselves to the amusement of comparatively harmless free fights. Other six months saw them back again in Dublin en route for the Channel

Islands, to acquire a smattering of flirting French and enjoy cheap brandy and 'bacco for a couple of years in the salubrious atmosphere of the Channel Islands. The head-quarters were at Jersey and detachments at Guernsey and Alderney. While here the Depot of the 1-17th was attached to the 2nd Battalion the head-quarters of the 1st having sailed for India. Sailing thence on 23rd June, 1870, the 2-17th arrived at Portsmouth on the 26th and proceeded to Aldershot, where they camped for the second time on Cove Common. On this occasion, the women and children had the rare experience on home service of a taste of canvas. On the 16th September, 1862, two companies left for Plymouth, where, on the same day, they were joined by the head-quarters which had been taking part in the autumn manœuvres. While at Devonport Barracks, the Depot of the 45th Regiment was attached to the 2nd Battalion, and from that time the three Depots-1-17th, 2-17th and 45th-have continued together. From Plymouth to Dublin, and in succession to Curragh and Athlone (under canvas), with detachments to Castlebar, Ballina, Tuam, Ballaghaderin, Ballinrobe and Newport; in this uneventful way passed the period from 25th June, 1873, to 21st May, 1875. At the latter date, the Battalion returned to the Curragh camp, and, being on the roster for Foreign service, recruiting districts were opened to make up the full regimental complement.

War-clouds were now hanging over the "Scientific frontier," and the 2-17th moved to Templemore, where arduous drill was the order of the day preparatory to a campaign in India. The Battalion left Cork 4th October, 1876, and Queenstown on the following day, landing at Bombay on 8th November, the head-quarters reaching Mhow on the 15th of that month, and a detachment proceeding to Indoon. In October, 1878, the Regiment was ordered to Nuseerabad and Neemuch, where it still remains under command of Colonel J. B. H. Boyd. Before the 2nd Battalion went on Foreign service, all non-commissioned officers and men of 18 years' service were sent from the service companies to the Depot, with the exception of Sergeant-Major Cashin, Band-Sergeant Beaumont, and Drum-Major Coady, who went to India with the Battalion.

FROM A SERGEANT-MAJOR'S DIARY OF A VOYAGE TO INDIA.—
A GUIDE TO THE DUTIES OF TROOPS ON BOARD H.M.
TROOPSHIPS.

The 2nd Battalion 17th Regiment left Templemore on the 4th October, 1876, for Cork, embarked on river steamers for Queen's Town, went on board H.M. Troopship Malabar and sailed next day at 11-30 a.m. for Bombay. As soon as the Battalion gets on board, each Company is told off to a mess-table of one non-commissioned officer and 15 men to each, every table being provided with knives, forks, spoons, tin pints, plates, &c. At the same time the men place their rifles and bayonets in arm racks close to each mess-table, and their kits, &c., are placed over those tables. After this is done the men are supplied with their first meal on board, dinner or tea, according to the time. One Company is detailed for Guard during the voyage. Over 100 men with non-commissioned officers are detailed for various other duties on board, such as cooks, orderlies, swabbers, &c. The remainder of the Battalion is then divided into three watches, the first of which mounts at 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., the second from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., and the third from 8 p.m. until 8 a.m. This gives a third of those men to remain on the upper deck each night, which allows more room between decks, and secures greater coolness, especially after leaving Malta. The troops are supplied with breakfast at 7 a.m., dinner at 12 noon, and tea at 4 p.m. A pint of porter is issued to each man at dinner during the voyage, also a ration of lime juice. Smoking is allowed, but only on the upper deck from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., from 12 noon to 2 p.m., and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Having made all preliminary arrangements on board, we raised anchor with a parting God speed, and sailed for that-

Land of changes and of wonders,
Land of lightning and of thunders;
Land of deserts, tanks, and fountains,
Suspens on bridges, jungles, mountains;
Land of beasts and reptiles evil,
Land where heat would roast the D——;
Land of mosques and wooden gods,
Land where stately palm tree nods;
Land where death maintains her seat,

Land of fever, prickly heat;
Land where the lordly bower tree waves,
Its stately wilderness of leaves;
Land of hackeries and dhoolies,
Land of pemkhas and of coolies;
Land of spite and hateful scorn,
Land where clothes are seldom worn;
Land of thieves and dark deceit,
Which Satan holds beneath his feet;
Land where strong men fast are wasting,
By eating fruit of splendid tasting;
Land where Curry's charms combine,
To make the soldier's life divine.

During the passage from Cork to Bombay we passed the following places, and each distance is correct:—

Cork to Ushant	• •		195	miles
Ushant to Cape Finister .			378	,,
Cape Finister to Burlings .			210	,,
Burlings to Cape Raco		• •	39	,,
Cape Raco to Cape St. Vincent .		• •	105	,,
Cape St. Vincent to Cape Trafalg	gar		154	,,
Cape Trafalgar to Tarifa	•		25	,,
Tarifa to Gibraltar	•	• •	15	,,

Total miles now travelled 1121, and having no orders from the rock we continued our voyage.

Gibraltar to Cape De Gat	a	• •		157	miles.
Cape De Gata to Galita				530	,,
Galita to Cane Rocks		• •		61	,,
Cane Rocks to Cape Bon				49	,,
Cape Bon to Pantelaria		• •		45	,,
Pantelaria to Malta		• •	• •	136	,,

Total miles to Malta, 2,099, where we arrived on the tenth day from Queenstown. Here we took in a supply of coals, beef, &c. and all more or less indulged in the fruit, oranges, grapes, pomegranates, &c., which are very cheap on the island. Best cigars, 3s. per box (100); best tobacco, 1s. 3d. per lb. I may mention that one of the worst frights the Battalion ever witnessed at sea was that before we got to Malta, with thunder, lightning, and rain. The storm lasted from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. All water-

tight compartments were closed, and every officer and man of the ship was at his post until daylight appeared. We remained in Malta for twenty-fours, and then proceeded for

Port Said 913 miles.

Here we took on board another supply of coals. We had now gone 3,012 miles, and left next morning through canal for Suez, 86 2-10 miles—

Suez to Ras Sedar in Red	l Sea			20	miles.
Ras (or Cape) Sedar to F	Ras Gai	ril		77	,,
Ras Garil to Ras Zeith				3 3	,.
Ras Zeith to Shadwan				48	,,
Shadwan to The Brother	8			85	,,
The Brothers to Deadless	3			97	,,
Deadless to Gibet Teer				656	,,
Gibet Teer to Aboo Isle				103	,,
Aboo Isle to Point Mocha	a.			51	,,
Point Mocha to Perin				41	,,
Perin to Ras Arrah			٠	37	,,
Ras Arrah to Aden				60	,,
Aden to Bombay				1644	,,

Total miles from Queenstown to Bombay, 6050 miles. We arrived at Bombay on the 8th November, and debarked next day at 4 p.m. and went by rail to Deolalee, arriving at 6 a.m., where the Battalion was marched by companies to Bungalows (Barracks). While here we got served out with Indian kit, bedding, &c., and finally all arrived in Mhow, 15th November, 1876. During the passage there was only one death—a child. There was also one birth. The Battalion remained in Mhow until 24th October, 1878, when it was sent to Nusseerabad and Neemuch. During the time the Regiment was at Mhow and a detachment at Indore, it lost through fever and a few cases of cholera 24 non-commissioned officers and men; officers wives 2; sergeant's wife 1; and 33 children.

The following table is from the latest number of "Hart's Army List":—

17th (Leicestershire). Linked to 45th.

-		4.Lt. Colonel Boydserved with the 17th 5. Regiment in the Crimea from Decem- 7. Be ber 1854, including the siege and fall of 6. Sebastopol and assaults of the Redan 6. Sebastopol and assaults of the Redan 7. In the Trenches); was also at the bom- 7. (Medal with Clasp, and Turkish Medal). 7. Major Brind served throughout 7. In Lindian campaign of 1857-60,—in 7. defence of the Kumaon Hills, and in 7. Rohilcund including the affairs of Hul- 7. Bohleund including the affairs of Hul- 7. Bohleund in Contral India (Medal). 9. Oude campaign, and with Ross' Camel 7. Corps in Central India (Medal). 80 Served with the 19th Regiment in 80 the Hazara campaign of 1868, and as
30 Sept. 77 15 April 78 25 Sept. 78 20 Oct. 78 16 Nov. 78 23 Jan. 79 15 July 79 6 Aug. 79 23 Dec. 79		HANGOUGHGE HONGOONS
61 11 Oct. 64 62 p 7 Aug. 67 63 p 9 Nov. 67 63 p 23 Jan. 69 65 p 24 Mar. 69 65 p 5 Jan. 70 66 p 5 Jan. 70 65 p 14 April 70 64 29 Jan. 71		19 Oct. 74 13 Nov. 75 13 Nov. 75 21 Jan. 74 11 Sept. 76 11 Sept. 76 12 Feb. 77 26 Feb. 77 11 Sept. 77 11 Sept. 77 12 Feb. 77 13 Oct. 74 11 Sept. 77 78 15 July 79 78 21 Nov. 79 78 15 Mar. 80
3 Dec. 123 Sept. 123 Jan. 124 July 124 Sept. 124 July 125 Sept. 129 Sept. 129 Sept. 121 Nov. 121 Nov. 13 April 124 April 125 A	P18 Mar. 28 Oct	15 Aug. 30 Jan.
	" of Musket	damp.
1 Charles Frederic 1 John Horace Ch 2 Fred. Fenton Pa 1 Matthew William 2 Henry Innes Na 1 p.s.c. Colwyn W 2 Edward Arthur 1 Thomas Francis 1 John Grant And I Gregory Joseph	1 William Wingfield Clarke, Interpreter I Charles William Boddam 2 William Gregg, Advitom 11 Nov. 78 1 Walter Stormont Davies Liardet 1 Richard John Gordon Creed, Inst. 99 21 Oct. 79 21 Oct. 79	2 Hugh Marten Short. 2 Thomas Mayne, Inst of Musk. 1 Feb. 79 2 Thomas Mayne, Inst of Musk. 1 Feb. 79 2 Arthur William M.Kinstry. 5 2 John Staepole, Qr. Mr. Deolatee Depot George Dudley Carleton Charles Armstrong Roberts 2 Edmund Richard Scott, Interpreter Maxwell Robertson Hyslop 2 George Francis Shaw 2 Edward Hodding Peacock, Aide de Camp Brigudier General Brice 2 Samuel Moores, Stat. S. O. Colaba Depot William David Gordon 1 Walter Stewart Stewart Savile 1 Frederick Joseph Blakiston Priestley 2 James Gordon Lemox Burnett 1 Edward Hugh Griffith 2 James Gordon Lemox Burnett 1 Edward Hugh Griffith 2 George John Younghusband 2 George John Younghusband
2000	::::::	00000P440444

Orderly Officer to Brigadier General	Bright in the expedition against the	tribes on the Black Mountain (men-	tioned in despatches, Medal with	Clasp). Served with the 17th Regi-	ment in the Afghan war of 1878-79,	and was present at the engagement	at Futtehabad (mentioned in despatch,	Brevet of Major).				Facings White.—Agents, Messrs. Cox	and Co.		1st Batt. embarked for India, 12 Jan.	1870; Depot, Shorncliffe. 2nd Batt. em-	barked for India, 5 October 1876; Depot,	Shorncliffe.	•				[Staff Paymaster, 27 Aug. 79.	. 58; Lt. 29 July, 59; Hon. Major, 17 July, 76;	5: Lt. p11 Mar. 59: Capt. 1 April. 70.			r Earl Howe served as Aide de Camp to Sir George Cathoart in the Kaffir war in 1852-53 (Medall, for which service he was
	11 May 78	1 May 78	19 Oct. 78	22 Jan. 79	22 Jan. 79	9 July 79	13 Aug. 79	13 Aug. 79	13 Aug. 79	13 Aug. 79	13 Aug. 79	13 Aug. 79	13 Aug. 79	13 Aug. 79	11 Oct. 79	14 Jan. 80	C Men on		11 Aug. 80	11 Aug. 80	11 Aug. 80	11 Aug. 80		Ensign, 13 Apr	Ens. p8 Feb. 56			in the Kaffir w
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Tg.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	:		1 Ross,	irner.	16 M	ner, 24	ir Geo
SECOND LIEUTENANTS.	Percy Maxwell Carpendale	Frederick Simpson St. Quintin	Benjamin Geale Humfrey	George Henry Poyntz Burn	William Anson Thompson	Percy Gerald Walker	2 John Mosse	1 Raleigh Gilbert Egerton	1 Cecil Henry Hunt	1 George Golbourn Tarry	1 James Sidney Ryall	2 John Augustine Herbert Reilly	2 Anthony Beale	1 Mark Ancrum Kerr	2 Alexander Vint	2 Ralph Leslie Sandwith	1 Victor Semini (Lieut. Royal		1 Gilbert Hamilton de Lacy Lacy	2 Owen Edlestone Wheeler	2 Richard Augustus Vowell	Lionel Copley Sherer	•	Paymasters.—2 Alexander Aitken	1 George Henry Tu	Ouarter-Masters -1 John Fallon.	2 William Horner, 24 June 76.	we served as Aide de Camp to Si
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_	:	:	::	:	:	:	:	-	: ;	: :	:	: :	:	: :	:	:	:		:	:	:	:		:				Earl Ho

5 Lt. Colonel Tompson served with the 17th Regiment in the Crimes from the 7th Feb. 1855, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol and assaults of the Redan on the 18th June and 8th Sept.—dangerously wounded (mentioned in despatches, Medal with Clasp, Turkish Medal, and Knight of the Legion of Honor).

6 Lt. Colonel Utternon served with the 17th Regiment in the Crimes from the 11th July 1855, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol, and assault of the Redan on the 8th September; was also at the bombardment and surrender of Kinbourn (Medal with Clasp, and Turkish Medal). promoted to the Brevet rank of Major. Troops (Colonel C.B., Medal with Clasp)

8 Major C. McPherson served with the 17th Regiment in the Crimea from the 16th Dec. 1854, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol, and assaults of the Redan on the 18th June and 8th Sept.; was also at the bombardment and surrender of Kinbourn (Medal with Clasp, and Turkish Medal).

9 Major Joseph Oates Travers served with the 17th Regiment in the Crimea from the 17th Feb. 1855, including the siege of Sebastopol, the assaults of the Redan on the 18th June (mentioned in Lord West's despatch for "gallant conduct") and 8th Sept.; was also at the bombardment and surrender of Kinbourn (Medal with Clasp, Knight of the Legion of Henor, and Turkish Medal)

10 Major Creagh served with the 86th Regiment in the Central India Field Forces in 1858, and was present at the battle before and at the capture of the town and fortress of Gwalior (Medal with Clasp),

15 Lieut. M'Kinstry served in the Afghan war of 1878-79 with the Koorum Valley Field Force.

45TH (1ST NOTTINGHAMSHIRE) REGIMENT, OR "SHERWOOD FORESTERS."

This "linked battalion" takes its name from our Sister County, and until lately was chiefly composed of Nottinghamshire men, who proved on many a well-fought field that they could give and take hard knocks as cheerfully as ever did Robin Hood, Little John, Friar Tuck and the merry outlaws of Sherwood Forest. During the Peninsular War the Regiment was popularly known amongst comrades as the "Four F's" or "Fearless, Fighting Forty-Fifth" and, being attached to the lighter fighting division was nicknamed by Picton-"The Old Stubborns." This fine Regiment has a glorious record and a long list (viz.:-sixteen) of hard-won victories inscribed upon its Colors. The 45th has seen more foreign service during the present century than any Regiment in Her Majesty's service, having been only about 15 years in England since 1805. served at the Cape during the Kaffir Wars of 1846, '47 and '48, and again during those of 1850, '51 and '52. In these the men enjoyed plenty of hard knocks, plenty of marching, plenty of fatigues and very little to eat except maize, which, by way of varying the meal, they could roast or grind. Retiring from the Cape in 1859 they were quartered in England and Ireland until 1864, from which last country they went to India. They left Dublin on the 23rd of July of that year, embarked at Queenstown on the 24th and sailed for India on the 28th July, 1864, landing in Bombay on the 2nd November, being 102 days at sea and without a glimpse of land from the day the "green isle"

disappeared astern, until they sighted the Malabar Coast. The Regiment, on its arrival in India, was divided into wings, one of which remained at Bombay and the other going on to Neemuch; leaving by rail (for two days) on the 19th November and marching the remainder of the distance, arriving at Neemuch on the 14th January, 1865. This latter wing was fearfully cut up by cholera during the months of May, June and July of that year, losing over 120 men, women, and children out of their strength of 475. It was sent to rejoin Head-quarters at Poona, to which station the latter were removed from Bombay in consequence of an outbreak of cholera in that city. The Regiment remained in Poona until the beginning of January, 1878, when it proceeded to Abyssinia and served throughout that had to leave tents and baggage campaign. The 45th behind, when within five days' march of Magdala, to enable them to get forward to take part in the assault. The last 42 miles were accomplished in forced marches, varied by short halts, a little biscuit and no water. What matters'it now (or even then)? say the veterans engaged. To them it is inspiriting to look back upon and think that the honour of the "old corps" was in as good keeping as it ever was in all the glorious past. Pleasant it is for an old soldier to cherish the untarnished honour of his regiment, and nurse the thought "I was one of them," after a successful campaign is over, with its hard and heavy marches, wearisome fatigues, bad water, bad food, but yet gratifying incidents of good comradeship in the field. The regiment re-embarked for India on the 29th May, 1868, and arrived at Madras on the 30th June. At this station it remained until January, 1872, when the 45th left for British Burmah, where it was again broken up into wings at Theyetmyo (Head-quarters) and Tonghoo, there remaining for two Moving down, the whole regiment was eventually united at Rangoon, where it remained twelve months, until ordered to Bangalore, and thence home. The men of Notts, landed in England on the 27th March, 1878, and were stationed at Shorncliffe Camp, after an absence from England of about fourteen years. The Head-quarters are now at Aldershot, under command of Lieut.-Colonel H. B. Hayward. The following table is from the latest number of "Hart's Army List":-

45th (Nottinghamshire,)—Linked to 17th.

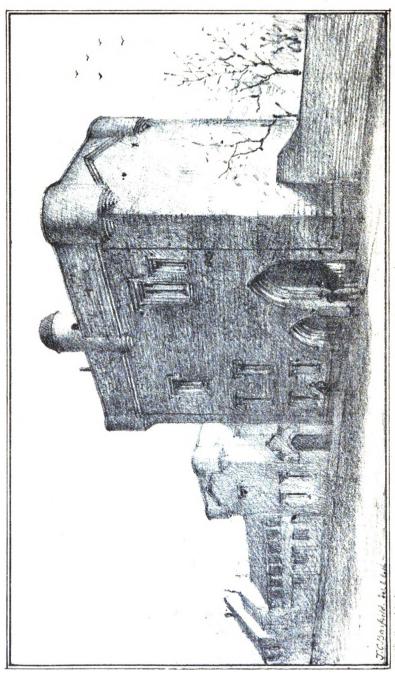
Aldershot. Years Ser. Years Ser. Payl Half Payl Payl 24 28 29 29 20 20 21 22 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20 20 20 21 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20 20 20 20 21 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20 20 20 20 21 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 20 2	hot. Half Pay-	"" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" ""	100 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Sub	Sub District No. 27. Brigade Depot, Leicester. O'ONOR," "Cludde Rodraco," "Baddaoor," O'Britles," "Cludde Rodraco," "Baddaoor," O'ONOR," "Toulosse," "Peninsula," "Ava," 23 Aug. 37; Captain, p29 Dec. 43; Major, p29 Dec. 44; Major, p29 Dec. 45; Major, p29 Dec. 46; Major, p29 Dec. 77 BREV. MAJ. BT.LT.COL. P29 Dec. 77 BREV. MAJ. BT.LT.COL. P29 Dec. 77 BREV. MAJ. P39 Dec. 77 BREV. MAJ. P39 Dec. 77 BRAY. 75 BRAY.	Brigade Deports Rodrico," "". Peninsul, p. 29 Dec. 48 8; Lieut. Gen. 70pt. p14 June t June, 64; M 6; Bt. Major, BREV. MAJ.	"Banaog," "A," "Ava," "A," "Ava," ", Major, p3 eral, 2 June, "64; Major, "64; Major, "55 Mar. 80; BT.LT.COL.
ន្តន		Arthur Morton George Heunsom Fort	p14 Oct. p29 Oct. p23 Oct. 24 Mar.	68 p27 Aug. 7 58 p19 Dec. 6 67 28 Oct. 7 69 28 Oct. 7	70 29 June 78 62 21 Apr. 75 71 30 Jan. 79 71 15 Aug. 80		
11 12 2	: ::::	Jubutenants. John William Thring Hume, Inst. of Musketry 1 Mar. 79 Edward Augustus Carter Edward Cecil Dowse Herbert Edward Hudson George Alfred Jones, Adjutant 4 Aug. 75	8 July 9 Feb.				

11 Feb. 75	11 Feb. 75	10 Sept. 75	212	()	Il Jan. 77 Aug. 1855, and was present at the	24 Mar. 77 siege and tall of Sebastopol (Medal	With Clasp, and Lurkish Medal).			pril, 56; <i>Lieut</i> . pl2 June, 60; <i>Capt</i> p2 Sept. 68.	Messrs. Cox and Co. March. 1878.	
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Henry Edward Neild		John Christopher Swann	. Arthur Dolben Bulpett	-	James Henry B. Todd-Inornton	. Napier Langford Pearse	SECOND LIEUTENANTS.	Charles Newcomen Watts	James Albert Reeks		. Cuareer masser.—Maurice miggi	-
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whole siege of Sebascopol; led the main column of attack on the Redan by the Light Division on the 18th June; and commanded a Brigade in the latter part of the action (slightly wounded, mentioned in despatches); was engaged in the final assault of the Redan on the 8th September (severely wounded, mentioned in despatches); commanded the 2nd Brigade Light Division from October, 1855, to the end of the war (Medal with three Clasps, Brevet of Colonel, C.B. Officer of the Legion of Honour, Sardinian and Turkish and St. Eustache. Was mentioned in despatches and general orders on the occasion of the wreck of the transport Premier on 4th November, 1843; promoted in consequence. Served the Eastern campaign of 1854-55; was present at the battles of Alma (mentioned in despatches) and Inkerman, the minor affairs of Bulganac, M'Kenzie's Farm, capture of Balaklava, and throughout the s Sir Daniel Lyons served in Canada during the rebellion in 1838-39, including the actions of St. Denis (mentioned in despatches

3 Lieut.-Colonel Hayward served with the 45th Regiment in the Abyssinian campaign in 1868, and was present at the storming 6 Major Callwell served in Abyssinia in 1868 in the Commissariat Department, in command of the Station at the Attala (Medal.) 7 Captain Hooke served in the Abyssinian campaign in 1868 (Medal.) Medals, and 3rd Class of the Medjidie.) and capture of Magdala (Medal.)

10 Captains Reeve, Lambard, and Wright served in Abyssinian campaign in 1868, and were present at the storming and capture of Magdala (Medal.



It may not be inappropriate to here give place to the opinions expressed to me by a war-worn veteran on the subject of "linked battalions." Speaking of recollections of brilliant victories achieved by deathless daring and terrible endurance, he says :-- "It is such memories as these that the British soldier looks back upon with pride, saying to himself 'My old corps was there!' But, alas! in these days of cheese-paring and 'one button for the service,' I am afraid that one of our greatest incentives to deeds of bravery-namely, the traditions and records of our own Regiment-will soon be a thing of the past. In fact, under the present 'linked' Brigade and short-service system, esprit de corps is fast dying out." I can only hope that, in the first place, my friend is a "croaker," and, in the second place, if he is not, that the Horse Guards will, after fair trial, speedily relegate the new system, when unsuccessful, to the usual receptacle of abortive "fads." To destroy camaraderie would be a fatal blow to the regimental elan by means of which British soldiers, shoulder to shoulder, have been inspired to shatter most "fearful odds."

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MILITIA.

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE OLD FENCIBLES AND VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

My native Town and County have been always distinguished for their military spirit, and the sons of no district have more freely come forward to risk life and limb, wherever fate or glory led them at the mandate of Old England. Let me first take a backward glance at history, and endeavour, in a brief form, to record the substance of my own reading and of the viva voce recitals of many old veterans over a social pipe.

In the olden times, Train Bands were levied by conscription to meet the necessity of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, for the time being, who had feudally to provide a certain number of men and horses for the King in time of war. The flower of the youth of the County flocked to his standard, and the Train Bands of Leicestershire have, upon occasion, been over 3,000 strong. One of the first exploits of these Woollybacks was,

under John of Gaunt, to take part in the subjugation of the Principality of Wales. My own garden, in the rear of Trinity Hospital, is credibly pointed out as the spot where John Bunyan, being in his youth an artillerist in the King's army, fought against the Cromwellians. The author of the Pilgrim's Progress, in his biography, returns thanks to Heaven for a Providential escape on that occasion. Having, from the necessity of nature, left his field-piece for a time, he returned to find his substitute killed by a shot. The way to my garden is through the Pike Yard, once known as "Little London." Here it was that the Train Bands were taught the use of the pike or halberd, which they could hurl to a greater distance than, and with quite as much precision as, the Zulu savage throws the assegai to-day. The pikes were all very well when the points of them were turned against the foe, but a gravestone in Hinckley Churchyard bears the legend of the murder of Dick Smith. The young man, it appears, was drawn for the militia, and having the hardihood to chaff a Sergeant of the line, the latter killed him by driving his pike through his chest. The character of the local force has changed from time to time, and, within 100 years from the present date, there were artillerists among the Loyal Leicester Volunteers, some of whose field-pieces on their carriages now stand in the passages of Belvoir Castle, and are noted in the description of a visit paid to that notable seat among the "stately homes of England," by permission of his Grace the Duke of Rutland.

If the sons of the Town and County were valiant, they were not forgotten, when fighting abroad, by those who stayed at home and enjoyed the security earned by their bravery and blood. In November, 1793, 2,219 pairs of white worsted stockings were contributed, as the result of a meeting at the Bull's Head Inn, Hinckley, to the "gallant soldiers," then "serving under the command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York;" which Leicester supplemented with 1,951 flannel under waist-coats, 1,259 pairs of stockings, 180 pairs of socks, 36 pairs of drawers, 30 pairs of shoes, and six petticoats. The recruiting-sergeant was hard at work, with his plausible tongue, inviting young, able-bodied men to join the Royal Marines, "in defence of the King, Constitution, and True Liberty! with the reward of

French prize-money," and the ultimate hope of spending old age in Greenwich Hospital in "ease, comfort and tranquillity."

The Loyal Leicestershire Volunteers, in March, 1794, were invited to enlist into the 81st Regiment, being promised a bounty of from five to 15 guineas, and an "honourable profession," where "honour and happiness will be sure to reward their noble exertions, and a liberal pension will soften the sorrows of declining life and procure a more comfortable competence than can be acquired by many years of hard labour." The standard was the moderate one of 5ft. 5in. for men and 5ft. 4in. for boys under 20. The cry of "Old England for ever!" was in this way cheerfully responded to. On 6th March, 1794, the following order was published in the Leicester Journal:—

"LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT OF MILITIA."

"In consequence of orders received from Lieutenant-General Tonyn, now commanding the Eastern District, I am directed by Colonel George Pochin to order that every non-commissioned officer, drummer, and private, on Furlough, do immediately join the Regiment at Yarmouth or elsewhere.

"JOHN FARMER, Captain and Adjutant.

"N.B.—Three or four Taylors, not more than 25 years of age (single men) are wanted; who will have the advantage of constant work at the Regiment.

"Leicester, March 6, 1794."

Lord Fielding opened a recruiting rendezvous at the "Lion and Dolphin," in the Market Place, for "Light Dragoons and Infantry." "Young men of abilities" were especially invited, "Sergeants and Corporals being most wanted;" and the baits were "a large bounty and handsome appointments." But deserters were not allowed to slip. One William Stacey deserted from the Leicestershire Militia, at Norwich, on 24th May, 1793, and the hue and cry went after him, the offered reward of five guineas no doubt causing a bad quarter of an hour to many a young man throughout the country who had "hazel eyes, fresh complexion, long brown hair and very large whiskers," especially if he wore "a smock frock, corderoy waistcoat with sleeves, leather breeches, round hat bound and a silk handkerchief round his neck." The public of Leicester and County, towards the end

of March, 1874, came forward with handsome subscriptions to purchase 635 pairs of shoes at 7s. per pair for the non-commissioned officers and privates "on the old establishment" of the Leicestershire Militia. In April, Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Edwards invited "such gentlemen as like a pleasant ride this summer and are hearty tight fellows" to join "the Rutland Light Dragoons, not to be employed out of Great Britain, nor to be drafted." The following advertisement appeared in the Journal of April 25th:—

"LEIGESTERSHIRE REGIMENT OF MILITIA."

"A few Volunteers are wanted to add to the above Regiment. Single men, well recommended, from five ft. six inches high and upwards, will be liberally treated with, by applying to Sergeant John Fossett, at the Cherry Tree, Leicester. To prevent trouble, no man but what belongs to this or an adjoining county can be taken. Men employed in the Navigations need not apply.

"Leicester, April 19, 1794."

At a general meeting of the County on April 10, 1794, it was resolved to add a number of men to each company of the Leicestershire Militia. The important sections of the resolution in full will be found embodied in the chapter allotted to the Yeomanry Cavalry. Books of enrolment for the Corps of Infantry were opened at the Post Office, and it was hoped that "spirited men of reputation who have not horses will offer their services in this scheme." By July 17, 100 names were enrolled and it was resolved to ask permission from the Government. increase the number and divide the corps into two companies. While much din was continued in August of this year, to obtain recruits for the 90th Foot and the Rutland Light Dragoons, almost equal noise was made for the discovery of James Donoyan, a Cork hawker, who had deserted from the Loyal Bristol Volunteers. He was thus particularly described:—"About 27 vears of age, well made, 5 feet 5 inches and a half high, fresh complexion, brown hair, bald upon the crown of the head, grey eves; had on when he left his quarters an old black coat, striped or spotted velvet waistcoat, old black velveret breeches and drab ribbed worsted stockings." But the special scent was that "the above deserter had his wife along with him; she is an Irish woman, wears a cotton bed-gown, shawl handkerchief,

green petticoat, a man's hat and an old grey woollen cloak." The deserter was remorselessly run to earth while the recruit was enticed with the prospect of "every thing to complete a gentleman soldier." So the world has always wagged.

Lord Moira, of Castle Donington, who now returned from a command on the Continent, is newspaperially eulogised as one than whom "no officer is likely to be more successful," "because no one ever enjoyed a more unlimited confidence in the army he commanded." On August 12, 1794, Mr. J. Mansfield (the Mayor) announced, in meeting of Committee, the receipt of a letter from the Duke of Beaufort, inclosing one from the Duke of Rutland, signifying His Majesty's approbation of the loyalty shown by the inhabitants of Leicester, and the Royal permission to augment, as petitioned for, the numbers of the Loyal Corps of Leicester Volunteer Infantry, attached to the militia. Townsmen "not able to give their personal service" were invited to aid the subscription in support of the corps, which at the above date had reached the sum of £251 10s., and was afterwards largely increased.

In this year, 1794, there occurred one of the most tragic events in the whole history of the Leicestershire Militia. On Saturday, 16th August, the militia were having a field day and firing blank cartridge at Danbury Camp. Captain Farmer, the Adjutant, being in the front, received a ball on the left side of the neck, which lodged in the back muscles. The following handbill was distributed in the Camp:—

"ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS REWARD.

Whereas there is reason to suppose, that the wound Captain Farmer received upon the exercise ground, by a musket ball, on Saturday last, was not the effect of chance, but design, with the villanous intent to assasinate and murder him; the Officers of the Line encamped at Danbury, shocked at the enormity of the crime, and being desirous of bringing so great a villain to justice, do hereby give notice, that if any person or persons will come forward and give such evidence as shall convict the man who wounded Captain Farmer, such witness or witnesses are hereby promised his or their discharge, if they request it, and the

above reward of One Hundred Guineas to be equally divided amongst them.—(Signed)

HARDWICK, Col. of the Cambridgeshire. Geo. Pochin, Col. of the Leicestershire. E. T. Gould, Col. of the Nottinghamshire. H. Walpole, Col. of the West Norfolk."

A like reward of One Hundred Guineas was offered by Government on discovery of the person who committed this villanous act. The Journal affirms that "perhaps few men stood higher in the opinion of all descriptions of persons than Captain Farmer; esteemed by his officers; a very able soldier, and, what makes the circumstances appear more mysterious, beloved by his men. After enduring great agony in the extraction of the bullet and the portions of coat collar, stock add shirt carried in along with it, Captain Farmer ultimately recovered, but no clue was ever obtained to his intended assassin.

On Sunday, 14th September, 1794, the Corps assembled in the Market Place and accompanied the Mayor to St. Margaret's Church, the choir of which performed special selections of Sacred music, with Miss F. Valentine as principal treble. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Thomas Burnaby. It is recorded that the Mayor was conducted by the same military parade back to his own house. "The concourse of spectators upon this occasion was very great, and the whole was conducted with much propriety." Another militia deserter, judging from his description was quite a swell, for he wore "a dark blue coat, light striped waistcoat, a pair of nankin breechees, silk stockings and round hat." Our Loughborough neighbours, 1794-5, were not slow to encourage their Volunteer Infantry. A Mr. Capp, presented them with a double drum and gave them permission to drill in his field; a Mr. Boultbee presented them with colours, the Rev. Mr. Dunn preaching on the occasion; and "several ladies and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood" started a subscription to defray the expense of drill sergeants, music, The song sung on the occasion (6th January, 1795) of presenting the colours to the Loughborough Infantry, may be worth preserving:-

Come, cheer up my lads, welcome in the new year,
The sons of old England are strangers to fear;
What tho' Gallic slaves in a mass may o'ercome,
The free-born of Britain shall soon drive them home.
Hearts of Oak, &c.

The old soldier cheer'd with his goblet of wine,
With energy speaks of the year fifty-nine;
Be Britons united, then fame shall survive
And in rapture her children shall sing ninety-five.
Hearts of Oak, &c.

The genius of Britain in Liberty's car,
While she treads on faction calls her sons to war;
Rebellion she crush'd in the gathering storm,
And the hydra absorb'd in the cloud of reform.

Hearts of Oak, &c.

The charter of freedom our fathers mad: good,

Fame and honour impress'd while they seal'd with their blood;

The Heav'n approved compact their sons have obey'd,

And their Colours this day on the altar have laid.

Hearts of Oak, &c.

Thus given, received, to Heaven we bend,
Our religion, our laws, and our country defend;
Then brothers in arms in loud accents we sing,,
May each Briton flourish and long live the King.
Hearts of Oak, &c.

The pressure for troops to go on foreign service increasing, November, 1794 witnessed the immediate raising of "a Loval Fencible Regiment of Infantry, which is not to serve abroad, nor be drafted, but to be disbanded at the end of the war at or near their own County." The recruiting officer described this as "a glorious opportunity!" of a good bounty for "growing lads, five teet two inches, and men under 50 years of age, five feet four inches high." The recruiting officer "roared as gently as any sucking dove," but I fear the word of promise to the ear was broken to the hope. Just listen to these almost motherly words :-- "A number of young men, who can write a tolerable hand, will immediately be appointed Sergeants and Corporals; those who have been in the service will be received with kindness and treated with great indulgence. Drummers and Fifers will also meet with great encouragement; and taylors, shoemakers and others will find their account in entering this

Regiment; in short, nothing so advantageous has yet offered since the beginning of the present war." So mote it it be. The recruiting depot in Leicester for the "Prince of Wales's Loyal Fencibles" was under the command of Colonel Parkyns, who invited all "fine spirited fellows, who are desirous of serving their King, and in defence of their country to come forward and apply to Sergeant Ludlam, at the Cherry Tree, Bond Street, Leicester." Rendezvous were also opened at Derby, Loughborough, Coventry, Bedworth, Nuneaton and Hinckley. The representation of the Borough became vacant in February, 1795, through the then Member of Parliament (F. B. Parkyns, Esq.) being appointed Colonel of the Leicester Fencibles, who, however, was re-elected. The height of recruiting ingenuity was perhaps reached in the following advertisement, which I give entire:—

VOLUNTEERS.

Hark! the Sound of the Buglehorns! They call to Brooksby Hall.



A Few good RECRUITS are Wanted for the 90th REGIMENT of FOOT, Commanded by that Valiant Officer,

COLONEL GRAHAM,

OF BROOKSBY HALL.

YOUNG MEN OF GOOD CHARACTER applying to LIEUTENANT EDMOND, at his house in Barkby-Lane, or to the Lyon and Dolphin, Market-place, or to SERGEANT BRADLEY, at the Pelican, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester, shall receive TEN GUINEAS BOUNTY before the Oath is administered to them before a magistrate; no clothing of any kind will be provided out of the bounty, but what is ordered by Government, the whole of which comes within the Compass of One Guinea, so that each Recruit will have the whole to do as he pleaseth with

And,

A Stocking frame can be purchased for the Stocking-maker—

A pack of wool for the wool-comber— Five looms for the Tammy weaver— Ten Looms for the Ribbon weaver— Or a good milch cow for the Plough-boy,

And also,

Will have leave immediately to go to their native Homes in Leicestershire to work at their trades, until ordered to join their Regiment, only coming once a week to receive their pay, which, in all, is Four Shillings and Fourpence Halfpenny. As there are to be Buglehorns for every Hundred of the County, several young Men are wanted who may wish to learn to blow the Buglehorn; the sooner such young men apply the better.

Bringers of Good Recruits shall receive Ready Money and all reasonable Expenses, according to the number of miles they may have come.

Adieu! for a time, to the recruiting officer, to note that Melton Mowbray was not behind-hand in responding to the imperial reveille. The Earl Harborough headed the list with £50, and liberal subscriptions were made to maintain the Melton Mowbray Company of Volunteer Infantry by those "who cannot conveniently give their personal services." This year, 1795, the "balloting meetings" were held for the Borough of Leicester at the Guildhall, and for the County at the "Blue Bell Inn," Humberstone Gate, in the Bishop's Fee. It is interesting to mark the ancient name of the Bell Hotel, which accounts—as many remember—for the flat metal figure of the bell in the old entrance hall being kept painted a bright blue.

A historical episode in connection with the temporary existence of the Volunteers of this era took place, this year, on Monday, 19th October. "A pair of very elegant colours (the gift of Thomas Buxton, Esq., and Wm. Firmadge, gent.) were presented by John Mansfield and Tho. Bentley Buxton, Esquires, to the Loyal Leicester Corps of Volunteer Infantry; that of Mr. Buxton's bearing the King's Arms; Mr. Firmadge's, the figure of a Volunteer, full accoutred, supporting the town arms. Mr. Firmadge is also the artist, the beautiful stile (sio) in which they are finished will best speak his abilities." The Volunteers, preceded by the Leicester Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry, marched to St. Martin's Church, where their chaplain, the Rev. Thomas Robinson, M.A. (still remembered as the popular "Parson" Robinson), "delivered a most animated address to the corps," which was drawn up in the chancel, where, after a solemn prayer, the

colours were presented with musical solemnity. The corps, with their guests, afterwards dined at the "Lyon and Dolphin," and indulged in the proper, loyal, constitutional, and municipal toasts. The *Journal* concludes:—"It remains but to add that from such a display of loyalty, unanimity, and general joy, the evening concluded with every mark of pleasure and satisfaction."

A rather unusual event closed this year, the dismissal from the corps—"to show the most pointed indignation against such disgraceful conduct"—of Volunteer John Mann "in consequence of his having made use of some very invidious language against the corps."

The exploits of the Loyal Leicester Infantry in quelling a riot. at Kibworth, of Navigation men, who had rescued two deserters from the Leicester Fencibles, will be found detailed in the history of the Yeomanry, under date 30th March, 1795. Saturday, March 14th, 1795, General Garth inspected the "Prince of Wales' Regiment of Leicester Fencibles," raised and commanded by Colonel Parkyns, one of the members for the Borough of Leicester. Out of 890 men, very few were rejected, and the General pronounced the newly-raised corps to be the best he had yet seen. In August, 1796, the Government ordered all Regiments of Militia to be made up to their complement; and the Leicestershire then wanted only 10 men to make the full number; and these 10 were at once balloted for. At this time. also, the Loyal Leicester Volunteer Infantry were admitting large numbers of volunteers at their weekly meetings. Amongst the names to be noted are the familiar ones of Berridge, Lee, Gamble, and Noon. It is rather surprising, however, to find a field-day stopped on acount of unfavourable weather, and drilling instead inside the Corn Exchange. Nevertheless, on the same occasion, on the question being put to them by Captain Walker, the Volunteers boldly declared themselves, in the event of the threatened French invasion of England, "determined to face their enemies wherever it might be deemed proper." In response to this loyal resolve, His Majesty the King, by a letter from the Duke of Portland to the Duke of Beaufort, assured "that most respectable corps" of his Royal sense "of their loyalty to him and of their love for their country." What wonder that "the corps immediately evinced their approbation by three hearty hussas?" At the close of this year, 50,000 supplemental Militia were asked for by the Government, and a New Militia Act provided that they should be exercised twenty days annually within their respective counties, and only called to a distance, within the United Kingdom, in the event of foreign invasion, when provision would be made for their families during their absence. Oadby was made famous by voluntarily forming the "Oadby Hearts of Oak," to resist "the hell-bred monster Jacobinism!" The dress of the supplementary militia was a scarlet jacket, with yellow facings, and a black cap, with red and yellow feather.

At the election for Leicestershire in June, 1796, Mr. Robert Hall, a Lieutenant in the Loyal Leicester Volunteer Infantry, met his death by a blow on the head in an affray. The Journal of the period regrets "that the asperity of party prejudice should operate so powerfully on the minds of any of its votaries as to hurry them into the commission of crimes, which open so wide a chasm in the circle of society and domestic happiness." The elected representatives, on this occasion, were the Hon. P. A. Curzon, and W. Pochin, Esq.

On 7th July following, the Volunteer Infantry at Melton Mowbray were presented with colours, the skilful work of Mrs. Caldecott, lady of Lieutenant Samuel Caldecott. The event is thus described:--"The infantry were drawn up in the Market Place, at 12 o'clock, attended by Major Turner's troop of the county cavalry, commanded by Cornet Deverell; from whence they marched to the field and detached an escort with the band of music for the colours. Mrs. Caldecott was preceded from her house by twelve ladies of the place, elegantly dressed in white with light blue ribbons (the female uniform of the day) and followed by a great number of genteel families in the neighbourhood. James Phelp, Esq., of Coston, late Captain of the Oxford Blues, carried the colours. On their arrival in the field, Oaptain Parke received them from Mrs. Caldecott's hands; and having thanked her in a very handsome, complimentary speech, delivered them to the Rev. Dr. Ford, the chaplain, for consecration-who, in a very animated and impressive stile, addressed the ranks" * * " and concluded with a solemn invocation to the Supreme Being."

By order of the Duke of York, Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, the Loyal Corps of Volunteer Infantry was reviewed on Monday, May 29th, 1797, by Major Grey, Inspecting Field Officer for Nottingham, who, at the close of the Review, requested Captain Walker to communicate to the corps, as he should do to the General commanding, the gratification he had experienced at the excellence of the firing as well as the very respectable state of discipline. There was great military enthusiasm, next year, and from the large number of volunteers, the corps was increased by a company.

In March, 1798, so loyally disposed were the Leicester Fencibles (then stationed in Ireland) that they unanimously agreed to subscribe seven days' pay to the exigencies of the state. This self-denying act led to the comment:—"The spirit of loyalty and good conduct which has ever distinguished itself in this Regiment, renders it inferior to none in a display of true zeal and attachment to King and Country." This was followed by £150 13s. 4d. from the Leicestershire Militia, under Colonel Pochin. It would be unfair to the still existing esprit amongst the Leicestershire Militia not to reproduce, in spite of my rapidly-narrowing limits, the following patriotic letter to Colonel Cheselden:—

"Yaxley Barracks, June 16, 1798.

"SIR,—We, the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Leicestershire Militia, commanded by Colonel His Grace the Duke of Rutland, being desirous of showing our attachment and loyalty to our King and Country, do hereby volunteer our services to march immediately for Ireland; and we desire our Sergeant-Major to lay our request before Lieutenant-Colonel Cheselden as the sense of the whole, requesting him to transmit the same to Colonel His Grace the Duke of Rutland. Signed on behalf and at the request of the non-commissioned officers and privates.

"ALEX. DUDGEON, Sergeant-Major.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Cheselden,

"Norman Cross Barracks."

The Regiment accordingly went to Ireland in September following, and "the few who refused to accompany their gallant comrades were received with marked disrespect, and by the women in particular," as they were marched through Leicester back to. Yaxley Barracks. The Duke of Rutland, being compelled to return to England, received an address of the warmest description from the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Militia on the 18th December, 1798, and on January 3rd, 1799, was present at Belvoir Castle at the fete in celebration of his own majority.

I have at this length referred to the history of the Militia, Volunteer Infantry, and Volunteer Fencibles, to give some clear idea of British military enthusiasm for home defence in those "parlous times;" but the circumscribed limits of this volume, and the multiplicity of subjects demanding some treatment compel me to hasten on.

From the beautifully kept original (or at least earliest existing) roll of the Leicestershire Militia, 1798, I extract the names of the then commissioned and staff officers, with the dates of their commissions, as follows:—

COLONEL.

John Henry, Duke	of Ru	ıtland,	(in succession	to the		
Duke of Beauf	ort)		•••	•••	21 May	98
	LIEU	TENAN!	r-Colonels.			
Edward Chiselden		• • • •	•••	•••	13 Mar.	94
John Suffield Brow	vn.		•••	•••	25 Oct.	98
		Maj	ORS.			
William Fisher H	alse		•••	•••	25 Cct.	98
Levell Ibbeton	•••		•••	•••	25 Oct.	98
		CAPT	AINS.			
William King .	•••	•••	•••	•••	11 June	96
John Bellairs	•••		•••		26 Jan.	97
John Wilkes			•••	•••	27 Feb.	98
George Noble	•••	•••	•••	•••	19 Mar.	. 98
Charles Robinson	•••	•••	•••	:	28 Mar	. 9 8
Thomas Earl Well	o y	•••	•••		4 June	98
William Barstow	•••	•••	•••	•••	1 Sep.	98
Lewis Tobias Jone	88	•••	•••	•••	25 Nov.	. 98
Charles William P	ochin	•••	•••	•••	20 Jan.	99
Samuel Oliver	•••	•••	•••	•••	25 Aug	. 99
		LIEUTI	ENANTS.			
Nathaniel Coeper.		•••	•••	•••	17 June	76
Thomas Freer	•••	•••			3 Apri	188
John Cooper	•••	•••	•••	•••	7 Мау	90

Benjamin Hands	•••	•••	•••	31 May 94
William Smith	•••	•••	•••	1 Jan. 95
Jeremiah Wright		•••	•••	16 June 95
William Reeves	•••	•••	•••	16 Jul y 95
John Yorke			•••	6 Dec. 96
John Harris Arn	old	•••		7 Dec. 96
Charles Davinish	•••	•••	•••	27 Feb. 98
Edward Tineto	•••	•••		4 June 98
John Walmsley	•••		•••	11 June 98
John Ellor	•••	•••	•••	12 June 98
John King		•••	•••	1 Jul y 98
John Burgess	•••	•••	•••	29 Nov. 98
Themas Montgon	nery Phil	ips	•••	25 Jan. 99
James Harrison	•••	•••	•••	25 Aug. 99
Henry Mossop		•••		28 Sep. 1801
		Ensigns	3.	
David Davis Mor	rris	•••	•••	- 30 July 1795
Wildbord Garner	•	•••	•••	8 Mar. 1797
William Wilkins	o n		•••	28 Mar. 1797
Jeremiah Hodgk	ins	•••	•••	7 April 1798
Henry Mossop .		•••		18 April 1798
Alexander Ward		•••	•••	5 Oct. 1798
Peter King		•••	•••	29 Nov. 1798
Thomas Millingh	ıam	_		4 Dec. 1798
Thomas Green		•		8 July 1799
John Peach			•••	25 May 1800
Hugh King		•••	•••	6 Aug. 1800
Henry Cootty				25 Sep. 1801
•		STAFF.		-
Pay-Master Natl	han Coon		•	25 Dec. 1797
Adjutant Wiliam	-		•••	16 July 1795
2nd Adjutant Jol			•••	25 Aug. 1798
Quarter-Master J	•		•••	3 Sep. 1798
Surgeon Thomas	-	•		11 Jan. 1780
Assistant Surgeon		 Moggor	•••	400 . 4500
Tronto out o Origeo	п лтошу.	TOPPOD	•••	19 Oct. 1798

I speak more fully in dealing with the Veteran's Banquet of 1877 of a survivor, Mr. William Green, 21, Framland Street, now 97 years of age, who was present there and spoke. Mr. Green's name is included in this regimental book, by a report dated 18th April, 1805, in Dover Castle, as one of the 230 who volunteered into the regular army; Green being one of the 167 who joined the Rifle Brigade.

For 13 years, from 1798, the Regiment was actively employed during the Irish rebellion, being present at Balla-na-Muc, among other engagements. On the ignominious landing of the French, the Leicestershire Militia brought some 400 prisoners to Dublin Castle. Wyllie, the poet, an African, who played the "jingling Johnny" in the band, composed many, more or less, appropriate songs, some of which are still sung around any Leicestershire hearth, where there still lingers a veteran militiaman. Here is one Irish fragment:—

The Bucks they couldn't stand,
As the Dublins led the van;
But up came the gallant Leicesters and cleared the way.

After the return of the Regiment from their long embodiment in Ireland, they were entertained by the Leicester public, on the Hospital Green, in the Newarkes, and received the official thanks of King, Lords and Commons.

Later on, when Napoleon had failed to overrun Europe, Wyllie sang:—

Hark how the bells do ring
What news do they bring
Unto good old George our King?
Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

That brave, immortal Wellington—See what deeds the hero's done!

He's made such thund'ring cannon roar

As ne'er were heard in France before.

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

Bonaparte has gone from France, And swears he'll make all Europe dance And put Old England in a trance.

Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!

The Gallic cock, hear how he crows! But Jacky Frost may bite his toes; Then will begin poor Bony's woes. Hooray! Hooray!

Apropos of Wyllie's song, I have heard an old volunteer relate that, after Napoleon's flight from Moscow, he and other Leicester lads nursed the French soldiers, though enemies in the field, who returned frost-bitten and plague-stricken, after they had been deserted by their own comrades.

Our poet, familiarily known as Benny, composed his own music; and hymn-tunes, still bearing the name of Wyllie, are claimed to be his composition. He died and was buried at Lutterworth.

In this connection, if not strictly chronological, I may be allowed to refer to Turpin, a bandsman and able flautist, who is credited with the authorship of the first "Grammar of Music." When an old man, he would, on May-day, adorn himself with evergreens and make a circuit of the town, playing on the flute: and, on any military arrival in Leicester, he would dress himself up in all manner of gaudy colours and play the contingent to head-quarters. A notable in another direction was Staffsergeant Hutchinson, the earliest missionary to seamen, whose modest labours helped to evolve the grand organization now at work for the spiritual, educational, and material amelioration of the lot of these brave, roving spirits. Hinckley produced a remarkable militiaman, named Bass, on whose gravestone, in the village churchvard, it is recorded that he rose from the ranks to a commission solely through his own natural ability. Revenors a nos moutons! When Napoleon Bonaparte threatened to invade England, part of the Leicestershire Militia served as Marines on the coast, and others volunteered as a Battalion which, after Waterloo, where they came on the scene in time to be too late, served in the occupation of Paris by the allied armies

Coming across, the other day, a copy of the Leicester Journal, dated November, 1807, I was enabled to realize from advertisement columns the full meaning of conscription. The first announcement is as follows:—

"47th GEO. 3d. SESS. 2d. CHAP. 71.—LEICESTER-SHIRE MILITIA.—Notice is hereby given, That the Deputy Lieutenants, acting in and for the several Hundreds of Sparkenhoe, Guthlaxton, East Goscote, Gartree, and Framland, and the Borough of Leicester, will assemble at the Blue Bell Inn, in Leicester, on Saturday the 5th Day of December next at 10 o'Clock in the Forenoon, for the Purpose of swearing in, and Enrolling the Residue of the Men ballotted for within the said respective Divisions to serve in the Militia of the said County;

when and where the several Petty Constables of such Parishes are to attend, and the several Persons chosen by Lot are to assemble, and take the Oath in that Behalf required, and to be enrolled to serve in the Militia of the said County, as private Militia Men, for the Space of 5 Years or otherwise to provide fit Persons to be then and there enrolled as aforesaid, and the Deputy Lieutenants will also assemble at the Blue Bell Inn, in Leicester aforesaid, on Saturday the 19th Day of December next, when the Fine of Twenty Pounds will be imposed upon every Person chosen by Lot to serve in the said Militia, who shall have refused or neglected to appear, and who shall not then take the said Oath and serve in the Militia, or provide a Substitute pursuant to the said Act.

By Order of the Lieutenancy, DECIMUS COOKE.

Leicester, Nov. 24, 1807. Clerk of the General Meetings."

That conscription was not agreeable to the feelings of all balloted residents in our own martial County will appear from the following:—

"LEIGESTERSHIRE MILITIA.—Wanted immediately, Six or Seven Single Men, to serve as Substitutes in the above Regiment, for the Parish of Melton Mowbray, to whom a liberal Bounty will be given, on Application to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish. N. B.—Bringers of able Substitutes will receive One Guinea each, and all reasonable Charges for their Trouble.

"Melton Mowbray, Nov. 25, 1807."

Where default was made, the subjoined will show that the authorities, as already noted of previous years, were speedily after the defaulter with a sharp stick:—

"LEIGESTERSHIRE MILITIA.—Whereas Henry Hewett, late of the Parish of Loughborough, in the said County, hath been duly chosen by Lot to serve in the Militia for the same County, under the Act of the 47th Year of his present Majesty, Cap. 71, and hath neglected to appear to be sworn in and inrolled, or to provide a Substitute, or to pay the Penalty by him incurred on that Account,

Notice is hereby given,

That whoever shall apprehend the said Henry Hewett, and bring him before any of his Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants for the County of Leicester, or give such information of him to the Overseers of the above Parish, as may lead to his apprehension, shall receive a Reward of Two Guineas, on Application to Mr. John Smith, one of the Overseers of the said Parish. N. B.—The said Henry Hewett, is about 26 Years of Age, 5 Feet 7 or 8 Inches high, marked with the Small Pox, and has a remarkable Cast with one Eye.

"Loughborough, Nov. 26, 1807."

Many honourable names might be mentioned as having had a place on the muster-rolls of volunteers and militia, such as Stretton, Hodges, Mansfield and Wheatley. Mrs. Laughton of the George IV. was the wife of the Master Shoemaker. Mr. John Deacon, the antiquarian, is the heir of Quarter-Master Deacon, who rose from the ranks. The tomb of Adjutant Hawker, in St. Margaret's Churchyard, is still often visited by Veterans. Special mention is merited by Lieutenant John Matthews, a gallant officer and a distinguished mechanical inventor, whose designs for iron-clad ships, guns and appliances, have attracted the serious attention of our own as well as foreign War Departments.

After the wings of the "Cormorant of Europe" had been clipped and he had been sent finally to roost, in solitude, the Militia were disbanded for over thirty years. Their re-organization in 1852, nationally as well as locally, was one clause in the Duke of Wellington's answer to the vain French General who boasted that, with 25,000 men at his back, he could overrun England. Mr. Dudgeon, one of the old veterans, rejoined the Leicestershire Regiment as Quarter-Master Sergeant, and the first levy was 600 men raised by enlistment, instead of conscription. In November, 1852, the list of officers was as follows:-Duke of Rutland, Colonel; J. King and the Marquis of Granby, Majors; R. R. Noel Sanders, Sir Seymour Sadlier, F. T. Fowke, Bryan, Costabodie, Captains; Thomas, Lieutenant; S. T. Stalyard, Doctor; Singleton, Assistant Surgeon; Hawker, Adjutant. The first parade was on the Old Cricket Ground and at the close of the first 21 days' training, in November, 1853, the late Duke

of Rutland, by way of encouragement, gave the whole Regiment a dinner, at the close of which he reminded them that it was the soldier's duty not to debate on the justness of any quarrel in which he might be called to take part, but to remember his oath of allegiance, suffer uncomplainingly, fight bravely and, if need were, die manfully. At this period, the Adjutant of the old regiment was now Lieut.-Colonel John King.

My own first recollection of the Leicestershire Militia is in 1852, when batches of them were carted to drill through the extraordinary floods in November of that year. My interest in the Regiment (which subsequently matured into comradeship) was finally fixed by the Grand Inspection in the Market Place, on 15th January, 1855, when the inspecting officer was Major-General Simpson, immediately afterwards Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in the Crimea. Still more earnestly was I affected when years afterwards on a bleak November day I attended the military funeral of a dear friend and a grand old guardsman—Sergeant-Major James Brown.

In 1854, by the addition of four Companies in proportion to the increase in population, the regimental strength was made up to 1149. The Crimean War breaking out, it was once more proved how easy it is to "drive a coach and six" through an Act of Parliament. A perusal of the Militia Act showed that the men were not bound to serve more than 56 days in one year. Accordingly, there not being any imminent danger of invasion, part refused to serve, and the regimental skeleton, at this critical time, was detained a whole year in Leicester, to recruit its strength under the amended Act. There was no real harm done, however, for the Guards, Artillery, Marines, and Rifle Brigade reaped a rich harvest of recruits, and a great many Militia officers received Commissions in the Line by virtue of the number of recruits they secured. Among these I may mention the local names of Lieutenants Marsac, Turville, Walker, Black, and Campbell.

While life lasts, my recollection of September 11, 1855, will not die. Sebastopol—that destroying Moloch of so much lusty British life—had fallen, it was said. The clanging of church and chapel bells, the patriotic spouting from the front of the

Market Hall—before the hideous Bridge of Sighs was erected there—the arm-in-arm procession of all grades and creeds, the rattling of fire-arms, and the glare and hissing of fireworks gave evidence of a prevailing "military spirit" that would probably have startled the Rev. Ll. Parsons. Alas! this report of the fall of Sebastopol was only a canard, and the Leicestershire Militia showed their spirit by volunteering for foreign service.

In the bitter cold of December 3, they started for Aldershot, and a second time expressed their readiness to follow the colours by flood and field. Happily their services were not required, for in a few months (April 30, 1856) peace was proclaimed in front of the Market House by the Mayor, John Biggs, Esq., and from the top of the Magazine by the proper Official. On the following 5th of June, the Militia marched into the Market Place on their return from Aldershot, and after receiving again the thanks of Queens, Lords, and Commons and 14 days' pay per man, were disembodied. Here, I may not inappropriately mention the noble gifts of Mr. John Biggs, and Mr. Richard Harris to the suffering soldiers in the Crimea; the personal professional services in Hospital at Scutari, of the late Dr. Noble and Dr. Barclay; and the tender enthusiasm of the Leicester ladies who, as nurses, watched the sick and wounded, and soothed the dying.

The Indian mutiny having broken out, the Leicester Militia were again embodied and ordered to Ireland. Travelling all night to Portsmouth, the Regiment embarked, next morning, on board the troopship Vulcan-60 women, 80 children and 960 odd officers, non-commissioned officers and men. Side by side lay another troopship going to India with the 50th, amongst whom was Mr. Stanhope, a Leicester man, whose brother is still in our midst. All was life and jollity, and as the bands played the cry was, "On with the dance! Let joy be unconfined." Early on the following morning, both ships moved off, amid mutual cheers echoing and re-echoing from shore to sky and from fort to fort, while through all penetrated the tender strains of "Auld Lang Syne." To this accompaniment the ships glided out of the Solent. Scarcely had they parted company off Osborne, when a violent storm arose, which raged for six days and seven nights. "Then shricked the timid and

stood still the brave"—that is the few who could stand, for the majority were content to wallow about without any anxiety after gracefulness of attitude, wishing, as they painfully paid tribute to Neptune, that their lives could then and there be painlessly extinguished. The Vulcan's Captain mercifully put into Falmouth for the Sunday. On Monday, the Admiral signalled the Vulcan out to sea again, and in a few hours the sturdy vessel became the shuttlecock of a fiercer storm, if possible, than the previous terrible experience. horse—a thorough-bred racer—of the Adjutant (Captain J. P. Costabodie, late 70th.) was tossed out of its box. killed on the spot, and with heavy-shotted feet thrown overboard to sink fathoms deep and "toss with tangle and with shell." Providentially the women and children suffered less than the strong masculine "land lubbers," and the spirits of all received a refreshing fillip as the coast of the green isle arose on the horizon.

The reception of the Regiment was most memorable. Forts Camden and Carlisle were garrisoned by old comrades of the Elthorn Militia, and as the Vulcan—which had been given up for lost—sailed into Queenstown amid beautiful scenery, every inch of space on the fortifications was covered by cheering welcomers, who lustily sang:—

Here come the Hard-ups, The Hard-ups, the Hard-ups!

a tune which they used to affirm was played by the Leicestershire Band. The Vulcan dropped anchor beside H.M.S. Hogue, and our Militia were speedily transferred to river steamers and transported to the city of Cork. There volunteering soon commenced, and a great many left the Regimnt, but very few joined the Marines, according to old precedent, after their recent distressing voyage. The only death which occurred was that of John Bond, who fell a victim to smallpox shortly after landing. He is buried in the soldiers' cemetery at Cork.

Under Major Noel, 300 men proceeded to Limerick to aid other contingents of horse, foot, and artillery, in quelling election riots. The troops were not only quartered in garrison but in churches, theatres, hospitals, or any commodious building. Only

a few free fights occurred, of no serious importance, and bloodletting, to restore order, was unnecessary. After some months, the Regiment was ordered to the Curragh. Here there was a jealousy between the Surrey and Worcestershire Militia, and the latter-old comrades at Aldershot-came trooping in hundreds to the Leicestershire quarters to renew an ancient friendly alliance. The Leicestershire lads included some twenty not undistinguished members of the P.R.; and Worcestershire and Leicestershire combined, speedily settled, with "their bunches of fives," the intestine differences of the Curragh Camp. After the Indian Mutiny was quelled, the Regiment returned to Leicester on 7th May, 1858, was disembarked on the 18th, and has only been up since for annual training. The loyalty and military enthusiasm of the Leicestershire Militia have been evidenced, however, on several occasions, when they have offered, should their services be required, to follow the colours in any part of the world.

After this Irish campaign the regimental crest—temporarily a simple crown and scroll—was restored to its ancient form of an Irish Harp with the valiant motto "Vestigia nulla retrorsum;" by which the Regiment was distinguished for its services in the Emerald Isle—that "most distressful land!"—during the last years of the past and the early years of the present ceutury. From 1852 up to the present date, over 10,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men have passed through the ranks of the Leicestershire Militia, furnishing volunteers to every corps in Her Majesty's Service. Strangely enough, only four persons are at present serving who were attached to the Regiment in 1852, namely, Colonel Sir Frederick Fowke, Quarter-Master A. Whitley, Sergeant-In.-M. Charles Smith, and Corporal William England. Annexed is the official "field state" of the Regiment on 27th May. 1880:—

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In the Ranks	Band and Drums	Recruits & Instructors	Pioneers	TOTAL ON PARADE	In Hospital	In Quarters	With leave	Without "	On Duty	In Gaol	Sick Absent	Effectives	Wanting	ESTABLISHMENT
	10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 2 2 10 22 Attending Sick 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 2 2 10 22 Attending Sick 1 Clerks 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 1 2	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 2 Attending Sick 1 3 10 10 2 43 37 10 815 Orderlies 3 Regimental Employ	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 2 Attending Sick 1 Clerks 3 10 10 2 43 37 10 815 Orderlies 2 1 1 1 10 Parliamental Employ	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1	3 10 10 2 40 37 783 On Guard

Ho The Duke of Rutland, R		Y Colonel.	nt	91 A								
	¥		ш	21 April 1894								
LIEUTENNT-COLONEL. Sir Frederick Thomas Fowke, Bart., D.L., J.P.,												
	owke, l	Bart., D.L.,	, J.P.,									
Honorary Colonel	•••	•••	•••	1 Sep. 1869								
Majors.												
Richard Worsley Worsw	30 April 1873											
William Pearson, J.P., I	D.L., la	ate Capt. 45	th foot	24 Feb. 1877								
		TAINS.		·								
Gregory Knight, J.P.		•••	•••	3 June 1867								
Philip P. P. Goodchild,	J.P.,	•••		15 May 186 ₀								
James Young Stephen			•••	22 Nov. 1869								
Jehn Phillips		***	•••	8 April 1872								
Charles Chetwode Thom	oson	•••	•••	4 July 1874								
Harry Vaughan Chapma		••	•••	6 Sep. 1876								
Frederick Gustavus Fow		·	•••	3 Mar. 1877								
Percy Loseby		•••	•••	10 July 1878								
Henry John B. Manners		•••	•••	10 July 1878								
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N. V. S. Pochin		enants.		4								
A. T. T. Lord Braye, J.1		•••	•••	17 July 1872								
Frederick H. A. Yates		<i></i>	•••	10 Dec. 1873								
George L. Stratton	•••	•••	•••	9 Jan. 1875								
Henry S. Fowke	•••	•••	•••	3 Mar. 1875								
	•••		•••	31 Mar. 1875								
Honorable P. F. C. A. H Thomas H. Stanbridge		, J.P.	•••	6 Dec. 1876								
	•••	•••	•••	31 Aug. 1878								
C. W. A. N. Baillie-Coch William P. S. Blucke	rane	•••	•••	2 July 1879								
	•••	•••	•••	2 July 1879								
	ND LI	EUTENANTS.										
William H. Markham	•••	•••	•••	27 April 1878								
Ferdinand J. Eyre	•••	•••		31 July 1878								
Lord J. De la P. Beresfor	ď	•••	•••	26 Feb. 1879								
Cairns Eckford Daniell	•••	•••	•••	30 July 1879								
John Clifford Chaplin	•••	•••	•••	30 Sep. 1879								
Charles John Farnham	•••	•••	•••	27 Sep. 1879								
Adjutant and Captain R	. K.	Watson, Ca	ptain									
17th Foot		•••		27 Nov. 1876								
Quarter-Master (with the	same	rank in a	rmy)									
Alfred Whitby	•••	•••		29 July 1856								

Of Major Pearson it is recorded that he served with the 95th Regiment in the Indian campaign of 1858, including the siege, assault, and capture of Kotah, Kota ka Serai, general action,

resulting in the capture of Gwalior, siege and capture of Pourie. The gallant Major has been "mentioned in despatches" (to use the plain military words applicable to the soldier's roll of glory), and wears a medal with clasp.

The neatness and efficiency of the Regiment, so conspicuous on the Race-course on Inspection day is no doubt chiefly due to a succession of excellent Adjutants:—Captain Custabodie, from 1852 to 1863; Captain H. C. Chester, from 1863 to 1865; Captain R. V. S. Grimstone, 1865 to 1876; Captain R. K. Watson, 1876 to present date.

Capt. Grimstone (now the esteemed Chief Constable for the County) belonged to the 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders) and is one of the surviving heroes of Lucknow. Captain Watson formerly belonged to the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment, and was the first Adjutant appointed 27th November, 1876, under the new sub-district system.

In conclusion, I give below a complete list of the names of permanent Staff Sergeants 1880, with the original regiments and decorations of each :-

Sergeant Major John Mackindor, 76th Regiment., Good Conduct Medal. Qr.-Mr.-Sergeant John Draycott, 2-17 Regiment, Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant-Instructor-of-Musketry Charles Smith.

Orderly Room Clerk Arthur Clarke, 34th Regiment, Crimean, Turkish and Indian Mutiny Medals, with 2 Clasps, Sebastopol and Lucknow.

Paymaster-Sergeant Henry Mace, 27th Brigade Depot.

Drum-Major James Kennedy, 37th Regiment.

Color-Sergeant James Bent, 2-17th Regiment, Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Alfred Berry, 90th Regiment, Crimean, Turkish and Indian Mutiny and Good Conduct Medals.

Color-Sergeant Robert Claridge, 45th Regiment, Abyssian Medal.

Color-Sergeant Joseph Crane, 45th Regiment, Kaffir War Medal, Abyssinian and Good Conduct Medal.

Sergeant William Deegan, 2-17th Regiment.

Sergeant James Donnelly, 45th Regiment, Abyssinian Medal.

Color-Sergeant Thomas Gibson, Royal Marines, Good Conduct Medal.

Sergeant Mathew Goss, 2-17th Regiment.

Sergeant James Harris, 45th Regiment.

Color-Sergeant Joseph Haywood, 82nd Regiment, Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Phillip Kilroy, 88th Regiment, Indian Mutiny Medal, Clasp Central India.

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Color-Sergeant Thomas Kind, 19th Regiment, North Western Frontier, Indian Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Sergeant Richard Matthews, 2-5th Regiment, China Medal.

Sergeant Simeon Moore, 12th Foot, New Zealand and Good Conduct Medal.

Sergeant Francis O'Day, 2-8th Foot, Good Conduct Medal.

Color-Ser-seant Edward Preston, 34th Regiment, Indian Mutiny Medal. Color-Sergeant John Stuart, 12th Foot, New Zealand and Good Con-

Sergeant John Timms, 2-10th Foot.

duct Medal.

Sergeant James Walsh, 1-7th Foot, Crimean, Turkish and Indian Mutiny Medals.

Nothing now remains but to add a kindly farewell to the bold Woollybacks, who have done credit to Leicestershire wherever they served.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MILITIA.

As our frisky Militia neighbours, the "Lambs" of Notts. are brigaded along with the forces composing sub-district No. 27, with Brigade Depot at Leicester, I subjoin an abstract from "Hart's Army List":—

NOTTINGHAM, OR ROYAL SHERWOOD FORESTERS HEAD-QUARTERS, NEWARK.—(No. 59).

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL.

Arthur S. H. Lowe, Hon	ı. Col.	•••	•••	23 Mar. 1871							
	Maj	OR.									
John Thomas Pountain,	p.s.	•••		5 May 1875							
CAPTAINS.											
Alfred Edward L. Lowe	, p.s.	•••		9 June 1868							
Richard Upton	•••	•••		9 June 1868							
Harvey Charles Tryon, 1	late Lt.	48th Foot		7 Sep. 1871							
Arthur Steffe Crisp, late	Lt. 6th	Foot p.s.		7 Sep. 1871							
Thomas Dudley Fosbrok	e, late I	t. 2nd F. p), S.	14 May 1873							
George Redmond Prior		•••		30 Aug 1873							
Hamilton John Wallace	, late Lt	. 17th Lanc	ers	24 Feb. 1875							
George E. Mackarness		•••		26 Aug. 1876							
Arthur M. Outram, p.s.	Inst. of	Musketry	•••	9 June 1877							
John W. Keyworth, late	Capt. 4	8 Foot		27 May 1878							
William Bradish p.s.	•••	•••		21 May 1879							
John A. Winstanley	•••	•••	•••	4 Feb. 1880							

I	JEUTENAN	TS.								
Charles William Grey			•••	6 Sep. 1876						
Sydney W. Edwards, p.s.			•••	3 Sep. 1879						
John William Arrowsmith	1	•••		26 May 1877						
Robert William Banner		•••		28 Aug. 1880						
SECOND LIEUTENANTS.										
Walter G. Harcourt-Verne	on	•••		16 Aug. 1879						
Albert Manners Paget		•••	•••	29 Oct. 1879						
Noel G. Shakespear			•••	14 Jan. 1880						
George A. E. Wilkinson.			•••	4 Feb. 1880						
Edward Beckles Bartley	•••	····	•••	21 Feb. 1880						
Arthur W. M. Wilson				21 Feb. 1880						
Arthur W. H. Good				21 Feb. 1880						
Charles Crosley Flower			•••	21 Feb. 1880						
Guy L. Jennings-Bramly				21 Feb. 1880						
Edward Burdon Bailey	•••	•••	•••	13 Mar. 1880						
Benjamin B. Dering-Willi	ams		•••	24 Mar. 1880						
Freke H. Drummond Wil	liams	•••	•••	24 April 1880						
Adjutant and Captain.—H	. H. Hoel	ce, Capt. 45	F.	9 Nov. 1875						
QrMaster (with rank of	QrMr. i	n the Army)—							
John Birch	•••	•••		1 April 1878						
Med. OfficerThomas Fre	d. Greenv	wood, Surg	eon	1 Mar. 1873						
F	Blue Facir	ıgs.								

PRINCE ALBERT'S OWN LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT OF YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

I do not share the cynical opinion that the Yeomanry Cavalry are more ornamental than useful, or that their annual inspections are merely good excuses for the gentry and yeomen of the County to enjoy an urban holiday. In the event of foreign invasion the services of mounted yeomanry, from a County of magnificent huntsmen such as Leicestershire can boast of, would be simply invaluable. Meanwhile, the year after year comradeship and emulation of each other in soldierly appearance and proficiency, maintain the proper military spirit which has done so much in all the past to enable England to lead the van of the world. It would be a matter of very great regret to me to be deprived of the privilege of witnessing, once a year, the gallant martial array of well-dressed, well-horsed, well-drilled, stalwart rural cavalry always in condition to give a good account

of themselves in the face of any possible foe. The Regiment was formed in 1794, when the vulture of France was devouring Europe.

The resolution out of which the Regiment sprung is worthy of preservation, and may be appropriately given here, although it applies also to the Militia:—

"At a General Meeting of the County of Leicester, held at the Three Crowns Inn, in Leicester, on Thursday the 10th day of April, 1794, pursuant to the resolutions of the former General Meeting, in order to carry into execution a plan for the internal protection and security of the country at this crisis;

EARL FERRERS, in the Chair'

Resolved:

That the following plans be adopted with the approbation of the Government.

That a number of men be added to each Company in the Leicestershire Militia, and forthwith raised to the amount of 88, including Sergeants and Corporals, and that Captain Farmer, of the Leicestershire Militia, be appointed to levy men, agreeable to the above Resolution; which men, previous to their being incorporated with the Regiment, shall be examined and approved of, or rejected by the sitting Committee for the day, and afterwards by Colonel Pochin.

That a number, not less than 100 be formed as Cavalry, agreeable to the third section in the Secretary of State's recommendation, dated Whitehall, March 14, 1794, included in the Lord Lieutenant's letter to the High Sheriff.

That a fourth part of the monies already subscribed be paid on or before Thursday next, the 17th of April, 1794, into the hands of Messrs. Boultbee, Mansfield, and Boultbee; Messrs. Bentley and Buxton, in Leicester; or into the hands of the other Bankers appointed to receive subscriptions.

That a Committee be appointed, consisting of all persons, who have subscribed Twenty Pounds and upwards, who shall be empowered to superintend the expenditure of the cash subscribed, and shall assemble together as often as they think proper, in order to make calls on the several bankers, in whose hands any cash should be vested, and to apply the same for the

purposes for which this meeting is called; and to do any other business respecting the measures. And that any five or more of the Committee shall be sufficient to draw for the monies required from time to time.

That this Committee shall have the power to call subscribers together, as they shall see occasion, by public advertisement in *Gregory's Leicester Journal*.

That an account shall be published of the subscription as it now stands; and that subscriptions continue to be received by the different Bankers before appointed.

That the Committee do hold their first meeting at the Three Crowns Inn, in Leicester, on Thursday, the 17th day of April instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Earl Ferrers for his acceptance of the chair, and his attention to the business of the day; and also to the High Sheriff for his impartial conduct throughout the business.

FERRERS, Chairman."

At the above meeting, the subscription list headed by the Duke of Beaufort, Lord Lieutenant of the County, with £500, realised £6,829 5s., to which the sum of about £2,000 was afterwards added. Following up this, the men who had offered their services to Colonel Sir William Skeffington, to act as Sergeants in the Loyal Leicestershire Corps of Yeomanry Cavalry were summoned to attend the Committee with their testimonials at the Three Crowns, at noon, on Monday, June 18th, 1 94. Three trumpeters also were advertised for. "Resperable inhabitants of Leicester to the number of about 50 enrolled themselves to serve in the Leicestershire Cavalry now raising," and the announcement of their gallantry was made public by advertisement. On account of the illness of Lady Charlotte Curzon, the General Rendezvous was postponed from 14th July, 1794 to the 29th of August following, as her ladyship was to present a handsome Royal Standard to the Corps. Bridles and bits were ordered to be trimmed for the occasion, "with blue silk ribbond."

On August 15, 1794, the following interesting "card" was issued:—"Lieut.-Colonel Curzon, having finished his progress

round the county, for the purpose of reviewing the several Troops of the Leicestershire Loyal Volunteer Cavalry, takes the earliest opportunity of returning his warmest thanks to the officers and privates, for the noble and patriotic emulation which they shew, in bringing to perfection a scheme which, from the very nature of it, must secure the welfare of the country. The Lieut.-Colonel also wishes to express his satisfaction at seeing so much zeal manifested by the non-commissioned officers of the Regiment, by those of the Horse Guards Blue, and by those of other Regiments, all uniting their laudable endeavours towards the discipline of the corps." To the above another "card" was subjoined, as follows:--"Leicester, August 15, 1794.-Such ladies as mean to honour the ball to be given at Leicester on the 29th instant, are requested to be dressed in white gowns and blue ribbons. In the morning, if they are dressed in habits like the uniform of the Leicestershire Cavalry, it will add much to the splendour of the ceremony at the presentation of the stan dards. The ladies and gentlemen of the County and Town of Leicester are requested to send their names to Messrs. Boultbee, Mansfield and Co., and to Messrs Bentley and Buxton, bankers in Leicester, that the gentlemen who have the management of the ball and supper, to be given on the 29th instant, may be enabled to ascertain the number of their several guests." Here I am reminded of the existence of the old Vauxhall Gardens, in Leicester, by the announcement of their "opening this present evening" (Friday, 29th August, 1794, "by desire of the gentlemen of the Leicestershire Cavalry, in the highest stile (sic) of elegant illuminations." Four capital voices were promised to sing glees, songs, &c.; a band was engaged to discourse music for "country dances," and a supper was provided-all for the small charge of one shilling.

Those were not the penny-a-lining days of short-hand reporters, as the following "contributed" extract from the Leicester Journal, of September 12, 1794, will show:—"Col. Sir William Skeffington, sensible of the honour which the High Sheriff and the Mayor have conferred upon him, in requesting the publication of his speeches, delivered on the presentation of the standards to the Leicestershire Cavalry, takes the earliest opportunity to comply with their request, and to express the sen-

sibility with which he is impressed by so flattering a mark of approbation. Sir William avails himself of this opportunity to thank them for the honour they did to himself and the corps, by their attendance on the memorable 29th. And if the sentiments in his speeches had the good fortune to meet with their approbation, Sir William assures them they were the effect of that zeal for the glorious cause which glowed in his breast and shall be maintained with his life."

On presenting the royal standard. "Gentlemen, I have the honour to present the royal standard to the corps, being the gift of Lady Charlotte Curzon, as a testimony of her loyalty for her Sovereign, her zeal for the glorious cause we are engaged in, and her singular regard for the honour and welfare of the Loyal Corps of Leicestershire Volunteer Cavalry. Under the influence of the donative of the daughter of the victorious Lord Howe, I am confident that, whenever occasion offers, it will incite you to valorous deeds, to the honour of the donor, and the esteem of your country; remembering that it is to be valiantly defended and never yielded but with life. Long live the King!"

On presenting the official standard. "Gentlemen, impressed with an unalterable loyalty to her Sovereign and attachment to her country, Lady Skeffington experiences an heartful satisfaction in the opportunity of this public declaration of her sentiments. The presentation of the provincial standard she esteems not only as an appropriate duty, but also as an honour which she ever must remember with sensations as animating as the memorable cause we so gloriously are engaged in. She warmly participates in the approbation excited by Miss Linwood, to whose ingenuity and loyalty we are indebted for a standard which ever, in point of work, must be eminently conspicuous. Lady Skeffington, maintaining a stedfast esteem for the spirited and gallant corps of Leicestershire Cavalry, ardently hopes an unvarying prosperity may happily distinguish our patriotic Regiment, for whose welfare she must ever retain the most anxious regard. Sincerely wishing each Yeoman every success which valour must deserve, she exhorts you to remember that the standard, the Insignia of Honour, like honour, should be yielded but with life."

After the ceremony of presentation was concluded. "Gentlemen, the gratification I experience at the glorious sight of my country-

O)



men assembled here, is not to be described: confident I am there is not a breast but which glows with an animation equal to my own. The circumstance most sensibly felt by me on this memorable occasion is, having the honour of being appointed by our gracious Sovereign to the command of a corps of such honourable and patriotic gentlemen, which I shall ever esteem the most elevated station of my life; and this day will be a memorial to remind your country of the affection you bear it. by standing forth in defence of everything human nature holds most valuable: and at a time when you were looked up to for its defence. Since then, gentlemen, we give a proof that the same heroic ardour glows in our veins which did with our valiant ancestors, let us emulate them who so bravely fought and bled in defence of a Constitution which is the pride and envy of the world: and let us by their bright example, be stimulated to the last drop of our blood in defending our beneficent King, our Religion, our Country and its Laws. Long live the King! and may prosperity uninterrupted await on every part of His Majestv's Dominions."

After this as well as after the presentation the band played "God save the King;" the officers saluting and the Regiment pointing their swords towards the Standards. The Colonel then proceeded:-"I cannot guit the inspiring subject without taking the liberty to intimate that thanks are too deficient for your late worthy representative in Parliament, Mr. Hungerford, who so long in his senatorial capacity conferred honour on the station you were pleased to call him to, and who retired from his arduous task to enjoy his well-earned reward, the approbation of a grateful County. How then, gentlemen, can we sufficiently acknowledge our obligation to him, who on the instant this glorious undertaking was devised, flew with a zeal that kept pace with his former acts, and never quitted the enterprise till. by his sedulous and attentive care, the meritorious cause we are engaged in was accomplished. Thanks are his due; but let us do more, permit the remembrance of his attachment to King and Country, and the service he has rendered the cause, to be engraved indelibly on our hearts." Immediately after this presentation, the Freedom of the Borough was presented to Sir William Skeffington, Bart., Colonel; the Hon. P. A.

Curzon, Lieutenant-Colonel; and John Frewen Turner, Esq., Major, Leicestershire Cavalry. There was subsequently published, a discourse addressed to the Cavalry, on the presentation of the Standards, by the Rev. Thomas Gresley, A.B., Chaplain of the Regiment.

The Yeomanry, on Wednesday, 8th October, 1794, assembled in the Market Place at noon and marched to the Abbey Meadow where they were reviewed by Sir William Skeffington. Lieut.-Colonel Curzon, about this time, "in the most handsome manner, made a present of two French horns, out of his own pocket, for the use of the Band." In December, 1794, the General Committee of Subscribers, which, as before stated met periodically at the "Three Crowns Inn" found themselves, after paying all proper demands, with £2,400 in hand "for the further exigences and support" of the "Loyal Leicestershire Corps of Cavalry."

During this period, the whole country was in just such a state of disturbance as harasses Ireland at the present time. Bread was scarce and riots ensued against the supposed wealthy offenders, to the loss and danger of life, insecurity of property, and even hamstringing or what is now called "houghing" of cattle. Amongst a certain class there was also an animosity towards military authorities. For example, on Monday, 30th March, 1795, the Mayor of Leicester was informed that men employed on the Union Navigation had liberated two deserters from a party of Leicester Fencibles and were then rioting at Kibworth. Between three and four p.m., his Worship gave instructions to Captain Heyrick, the horn blew to arms, and in about ten minutes the Loyal Leicester Troop of Volunteer Cavalry appeared in the Market Place fully armed and accounted. The Loyal Leicester Infantry, at this time on parade, also immediately marched for Kibworth, with fixed bayonets, leaving a detachment to follow with powder and ball. At Oadby turnpike "on information received," the Cavalry made for Newton Harcourt. They found a party of the rioters at the "Recruiting Sergeant" public house, and some of them appeared at the door armed with pikes, threatening resistance. Mr. Justice Brindlev read the Riot Act and a party of the Cavalry dismounted, searched the house, and discovered four of the most desperate

The prisoners were rioters but not the rescued deserters. dispatched to Leicester, under a guard commanded by Alderman Jeffcutt. The troop then scoured the country, bearing up the Navigation to Fleckney, and Smeeton, arriving at Kibworth at seven p.m., where they were joined by the Infantry. Finding the rioters entirely dispersed and not likely to reassemble, the Cavalry and Infantry returned to Leicester where they arrived soon after nine p.m.; the Cavalry having marched 30 miles and the Infantry nearly 20. On the following day (Tuesday) the Cavalry again proceeded up the line of the Canal, accompanied by a Sergeant and Private of the Fencibles, who had been injured at Kibworth the day before. By them nine other rioters were pointed out, amongst whom were "Red Jack" and "Northamptonshire Tom," notorious terrors to every locality in which they had reside 1. The Journal of 3rd April, 1759, remarks :-- "The promptitude and alacrity with which the several gentlemen came forward on this occasion, will, no doubt, be a powerful check on the lawless and disobedient; and their exertions justly entitle them to the thanks of every man attached to the constitution of his country, having, as a basis, the security of our laws, and the tranquillity of society."

The same paper on August 14th, following, says:-"Too high praise cannot be bestowed upon the Leicester Volunteer Yeomanry Cavalry for their firm, patient, and obedient conduct, in the late affair at Barrow-upon-Soar, in rescuing the stolen corn from the hands of the rioters. From a principle of humanity and forbearance, they stood (after the Riot-Act had been read an hour) to be insulted and abused and violently assaulted by having large stones thrown at them, before a single shot was returned. After the word of command was given, the firing lasted only five minutes, and ceased on finding it had the desired effect of dispersing the rioters." I further read that on Wednesday, September 30th, in the same year, "the Loyal Leicestershire Volunteer Cavalry, were reviewed in the Abbey Meadow, by the Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel Curzon; the gentlemen went through the evolutions with great eclat and much satisfaction to the Commanding Officer; the Leicester Volunteer Infantry, accompanied with the Loughborough Band, and a detachment of the Regiment of Dragoons politely assisted on the occasion."

On September 12th, 1876, the Yeomanry troops of Colonel Sir William Skeffington and Captain Loraine Smith had a field-day in the Abbey Meadow and "performed their exercise with great adroitness." Mr. T. Bunce, Leicester, and Mr. Harris, Belgrave, were lauded for joining the Cavalry at a crisis when it behoved the "good subject" to devote himself not only "to repel the audacious enemy without, but check the secret machinations of the audacious foe within." In the following month, the entire Regiment of Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry was reviewed in the Abbey Meadow by Colonel Sir W. Skeffington "in the presence of an elegant assemblage of distinguished characters of the County." The Leicester Infantry kept the ground and by the manner of their disposition added to the brilliancy of the display.

By the new Militia Act, passed in November, 1876, the Yeomanry Volunteers were authorized to be supplemented with new corps of Cavalry, who should be exercised 20 days within their respective Counties, their families being "well fed in their The dress appointed for the new or provisional cavalry was a dark bottle-green jacket, in the hussar style, faced with red, and a red and black cap with red and green feathers Their offensive armour was to consist of a sword only, as it was expected they would be required to skirt the country and guard prisoners. These provisional cavalry for the first time mustered in the Market-place on Monday, 22nd May, 1877, and were inspected by their Colonel, the Duke of Rutland, who was so pleased with his men's appearance that he ordered each private to be presented with half-a-crown on dismissal from parade. officers of this corps, with the officers of the Yeomanry Cavalry and Volunteer Infantry by His Grace's invitation finished the day in constitutional conviviality at the "Three Crowns Inn."

On Tuesday, 30th May, 1797, the Loyal Leicestershire Volunteer Yeomanry Cavalry, went through their several evolutions before Major Grey, Inspecting Field Officer for Nottingham, with a degree of precision and advoitness that reflected the highest credit on their perseverance and attention. The Journal of the period remarks:—"These gentlemen have now been embodied three years, during which period they have in various instances, rendered the most essential service to the

country. Most of them, we are informed, are extremely anxious to add the *uniform* to the ability of the soldier, and as the present posture of public affairs is likely to require a continuance of their services, we hope some mode will be adopted to meet their wishes. The present dress is very justly termed a *non-descript* that reflects no credit on the taste of the country, nor gives to the *coup d'ail* of the soldier a military effect."

The first Commissions of the Provisional Cavalry, as signed by the Duke of Beaufort, Lord Lieutenant, were as follows:—

John Henry Duke of Rutland, Colonel. James Phelp, Esq., Coson, Lieut.-Colonel. Thomas Boultbee, Esq., Tooley, Major. CAPTAINS.

W. T. Maior, Esq., Harborough.

P. A. Lefargue, Esq.

J. Foster, Esq.

LIEUTENANTS.

E. Maior, Stokes, Melton.

J. Neale, Skeffington.

J. Goode, Normanton.

J. Price.

During the last week of April, 1798, the Duke of Rutland attended the several musters of his Regiment, and on Thursday and Friday (26th and 27th) gave an elegant entertainment at the Three Crowns to the Corporation, clergy, many of the gentlemen, both in town and country, and all the officers of the different regiments and detachments in town. A contemporary reporter quaintly adds:—"His Grace each day supported the conviviality of the table to a late hour, and strongly impressed the minds of his visitors with his condescension and affability." In June following, the Leicester Yeomanry Cavalry, along with the Volunteer Infantry, were reviewed by General Egerton, who passed high encomiums on their soldierly appearance and proficiency. This was the regular order of things from year to year, and to continuously reproduce the recurring picture would be both monotonous and superfluous.

The command fell to Colonel Keck, of Stoughton Grange, in 1801, who retained it until 1860. In 1827, the following was the list officers:—

G. A. L. Keck, Esq., M.P., Colonel. Sir F. G. Fowke, Bart, Lieutenant Colonel. Thomas Geary, Major.

CAPTAINS.

Robert Otway Cave. Earl Howe. John Creswell. John Arthur Arnold. William Charles Packe. Henry D. Coleman. Edward Basil Farrham. J. S. Coleman.

Roger Manners.

LIEUTENANTS.

J. Buckley Humfrey. R. Gough. John Cradock. Henry Halford. Thomas Piddocke.

James Lee Douglas.

Thomas Walker.

John Bright.

CORNETS

J. R. Browne Cave. H. H. H. Hungerford. Colin C. Macaulay. John W. Wood. Charles T. F. Mundy. Edward B. Hartopp. R. Goodacre. Thomas Watson.

Edward Dawson.

Adjutant, John Bowater.
Paymaster, Matthew Babin
Chaplain, Rev. W. R. Tyson.
Surgeon, Gilbert Bridges.
Assistant Surgeon, Richard Oliver.
Veterinary Surgeon, William Burley.

The veteran Yeoman to whom I am indebted for many of the particulars which follow (Sergeant Berridge of A troop) joined the Regiment in July, 1836. The regimental clothing has, as everybody knows, undergone several changes. First came the scarlet coatee and a ponderous, uncomfortable bearskin helmet; then followed the scarlet tunic with trousers and plumed chaco, which subsequently gave place to a plumed helmet; and last and best of all came the typical Hussar dress, with boots and pantaloons, which has given "Prince Albert's Own" the appearance of a crack cavalry corps. Till some score of years ago the men used their own pigskins; then and since they have been served with military saddles. On November 25th, 1839, the Regiment received high encomiums for their appearance, steadiness, and discipline, as the escort of the Queen Dowager (Adelaide) from Gopsall Hall to Leicester, Her Royal Highness being on her way

to London from a visit to Belvoir Castle. Many of my readers will remember the threatening assemblage of 30,000 Chartists on Welford Road Recreation-ground, at 10 p.m. of Monday, August 18, 1842. The crowd melted away at the sight of prancing steeds and flashing steel. Next day the Chartists reassembled in equal numbers on Mowmaker Hill, but were finally dispersed by a simple Yeomanry demonstration; some who had intrenched themselves behind a hedge, scattering dismayed in every direction, when they were startled to find their lofty, natural barricades cleared in splendid style by a posse of the clever cross-country riders of the corps; and one obstreperous . "five-roints" man was astonished at being collared by a muscular hand, and feeling his fifth rib sharply tickled by a revolving The Yeomanry did not unsaddle until the following Friday, but the mob were thoroughly cowed, and no further cavalry demonstration was necessary. It was on this occasion that the now repentant and devout Thomas Cooper was arrested. At the October Sessions there was put on record from the Queen, the Horse Guards, the then Duke of Rutland, Lord Lieutenant of the County, and the Bench of Justices' "high approval of the gallantry, discipline, and forbearance of the several corps of Yeomanry cavalry" in preventing the menaced popular rising. Gentlemen who, about this year, frequented the "Swan with Two Necks" may remember the posterior decoration of a genial and convivial Sergeant with a bunch of peacock's feathers. As the unconscious Sergeant strutted about the yard in all the variegated glory of this gaudy borrowed plumage, a veteran officer remarked to him :-- "Well, I declare, if you're not as proud as a peacock, G---, and your tail is just as long." In 1842, the then Earl Howe was gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel. The Queen and Prince Albert-December 7th, 1843-passed through Leicester from Belvoir Castle. They were escorted from the Castle by the Yeomanry—the distance of 28 miles being accomplished in two hours. It is a matter of tradition that this journey effectually cured all the kicking horses in the Regiment. It was a proud day for "Prince Albert's Own," when the following flattering but not too flattering regimental order was published:-

"STOUGHTON GRANGE, January 3rd, 1844.

It has been repeatedly the pleasing office of the Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, to express his thanks to the Regiment on the exemplary performance of its duties; but upon no occasion has he ever more cordially congratulated his brethren in arms than upon their late most soldier-like attendance upon their Sovereign, and the admirable discharge of the services assigned to them on that memorable occasion. Happily this assurance does not rest upon the perhaps too partial opinion of the Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, for it is his most gratifying duty to announce to the Regiment at large, the gracious approval by Her Majesty, and H. R. H. Prince Albert, of their orderly and soldier-like conduct, as appears by the subjoined letter of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, Dated December 11th, 1843:—

"Stanton Woodhouse, December 11th, 1843.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I know the pride and joy which you and the Regiment under your command will experience when I inform you that I have received through Mr. G. E. Anson, the command of Her Majesty and H. R. H. Prince Albert, to convey to yourself, and the Officers, and Men, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry Cavalry, the expression of Her Majesty and H. R. H. Prince Albert's entire approval of the orderly and efficient manner in which they performed the voluntary duty undertaken by them, on the occasion of the Royal visit to Belvoir Castle, and of their very soldier-like appearance.

"As I had the gratification of riding in person with the first escort from Belvoir Castle, and consequently being an eyewitness of their performance of the animating duty in which they were engaged, and as that duty was only one, though the most noble and cheering duty of many in which the Regiment has been employed; I should do wrong to my own feelings, if I did not offer to you and to all the ranks of the Regiment under your command, my deep sense of their services, and my admiration of their conduct upon the late as well as upon many former occasions on which their services have been required.

I have the honour to be, my dear Sir,
Your very faithful Servant,
"RUTLAND."

"And further, Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to bestow upon the Regiment the honourable distinction of its new and future Title "Prince Albert's Own." officially made known to us by the following communication from His Grace the Duke of Rutland, dated 24th December, 1843:

"Stanton Woodhouse, December 24th, 1843.

"My Dear Sir,—I have great pleasure in forwarding to you the accompanying letter from the Secretary of State, announcing the pleasure of Her Majesty, that the Leicestershire Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry under your command shall from this time forth bear the title of "Prince Albert's Own." Give me leave to express my hearty congratulations upon the attainment of an honour, which, however great, is nevertheless fairly earned, by the long-tried services and invariably excellent conduct of the Regiment.—I have the honour to be,

My dear Sir,

Your very faithful Servant, RUTLAND."

"A more flattering proof of approval could not have been conferred upon us, and if any incentive had been wanting to stimulate our future efforts, it would be amply found in the endeavour to deserve such signal marks of Royal favour; and the Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant well knows, that the Regiment will join with him in a just feeling of honest pride on the distinguished honour thus earned by us, and the very kind and flattering terms in which His Grace the Duke of Rutland has notified the same with his own estimation of those services which he as so long witnessed.

The limited nature of the late services necessarily precluded the employment of the whole of the Regiment, but the Lieut.-Colonel Commandant is well aware that the distant yeomen, if called upon, would have equally sustained our military character, and he thus begs to tender his cordial congratulations to the Regiment at large, with the heartfelt assurance that such zealous and soldier-like conduct will at all times insure success in any services on which they may be employed.

By Command,
F. JACKSON,
Capt. and Adjutant, P.A.O.L.Y.C."

The next memorable event was the review on the Racecourse on 26th September, 1844. On that occasion, Lady Georgiana Curzon (now Duchess of Beaufort) presented the Regiment with five colours—one for each squadron—worked by her own hand. The Rev. Mr. Irwin, who performed the ceremony of consecration, in an address to the Regiment, said:-"May the hands that receive those colours be as pure as those that present them!" In September, 1846, and the same month in 1847, the Regiment was reviewed and highly complimented by Colonel (afterwards General) Chatterton, of the 4th Royal Irish Dragoons. After the latter inspection, this officer abolished the pistols and made the corps a carabineer Regiment, in which style it paraded in 1849. Fergus O'Connor was to the fore in this year, and the Chartists again felt disposed for a rampage. They assembled many thousands strong in Humberstone Gate, and the Yeomanry paraded in the Bell Hotel. Mr. Davis, an old landlord of the "Black Lion," Belgrave Gate, was the hero of a ludicrous incident. Instead of riding to the back gate of the Bell Hotel, with thoughtless foolhardiness, he made for the front by way of Humberstone Gate. In a twinkling he was unhorsed by the mob, and would not have been handled "with care" had not a squadron of comrades dashed out to the rescue, when the excited populace gave way like snow-drifts in thaw. Beyond the mischievous upsetting of stalls, decoy rushes down Wharfe Street to lead the cavalry a dance, and abnormal excitement in the neighbourhood, no harm ensued. In September 1848, Regimental Sergeant Goodfellow (by nature good fellow as well as by name) died during the week's training, and was buried with military honours. The volley at the grave was so perfectly simultaneous, that it sounded like a single carbine. When the dear old Adjutant was asked if he ever heard firing like that, he replied: - "No, and never shall again so long as the world stands." Sergeant Berridge is the last survivor of that firing party still in the Regiment.

In the time of the late Mr. Frewen—who used to regularly lay aside £1,000 per annum to be in readiness for election expenses—the Yeomanry were ordered to Quorn, in anticipation of riots. "Prince Albert's Own" were "ready," but happily not "wanted." They took part, on January 25th, 1858, in the

celebration of the Princess Royal's marriage by escorting the captured Russian cannon to their rather extraordinary restingplace at the doors of an institution intended to promote "peace on earth, goodwill towards men"—the Museum. voluntary service the Yeomanry were not so much as thanked by the Corporation. In 1859, the period of annual training was altered from a week in September to a week in May. 1860, the then Earl Howe was gazetted Colonel Commandant and Lord Curzon, Lieutenant-Colonel. The veteran Adjutant. Captain Jackson, died on January 12th, 1874, and was buried on 17th with military honours amid "troops of friends," including many officers from a distance, who had come to pay a last tribute of respect to their gallant and much-esteemed comrade. The oldest members of the Regiment are Regimental Quarter-Master Bailey, who joined in 1823; Quarter-Master Matts. who joined in May 1836; and Sergeant (better known as "Old Dad") Berridge, who joined in July, 1836. "Prince Albert's Own" are at present officered as follows:-

Ho	NORARY	COLONEL.		
R. W. P. Earl Howe, C.	B., Ma	jor-General	•••	28 June 1876
Lie	UTENANT	r-Colonels.		
F. Palmer, late Captain	36th Fo	ot		25 Nov. 1878
C. G. Earl of Gainsborou	ıgh			26 Nov. 1878
	Maj	OR.		
James William Baillie				8 Jan. 1879
	CAPTAI	ns. (8)		•
G. H. Finch		•••		23 May 1860
George Ernest Paget, lat	e Lt. R.	Horse Gua	rds	1 Dec. 1871
John D. Cradock	•••			11 Sep. 1875
T, A. Craven, late Royal	Horse	Guards		24 April 1876
Thomas A. Henry, late	Captain	14th Hussa	rs	28 June 1876
Edward Hartopp, late Li	ieutenar	nt 10th Huse	ars	16 Jan. 1879
John H. Smith	•••	•••		10 April 1878
Edward S. Watson, late	Lieut. 1	0th Hussars		5 Mar. 1879
LIEUTENAN	тs.—(L	ts. 8, 2nd-L	ts. 4).	
Robert Heathcote				1 June 1873
Henry Story				1 June 1873
Charles Marriott			•••	1 June 1873
Sir Charles Nugent, Bt.,	late Lt.	17th Lance	rs	1 June 1873
Edward H. Warner	•••	•••	•••	1 April 1874
Edward H. Pares, (p.s.)				20 Sep. 1876
Vincent T. Eyre, late Ca	ptain 6t	th Dragoons		23 April1877

SUB-LIEUTENANTS.

John H. Lord Kesteven	•••	•••	•••	13 April 1876
Walter A. Peake	•••	•••		7 Mar. 1877
Seco	OND · LI	EUTENANTS.		
William G. Middleton, la	ate Cap	t. 12th Lanc	ers	23 Jan. 1879
William E. J. B. Farnha	m		•••	1 Feb. 1879
Charles E. Earl of Loudo	oun			26 Feb. 1879
John C. O'Neal, late Cap	otain 6t	h Dragoons		26 Mar. 1879
Hedworth T. Barclay		•••		7 Jan. 1880
Adjt. John Gibsone, Cpt.	, late C	apt 17th Lan	cers,	
Hon. m. (temp.	Capt. ir	army 28 Fe	b. 74)	18 Sep. 1869
Surgeon Charles M. Sidle	y, 27 O	ct., 62		†1 Oct. 1877
V.S. Edward Bailey	•••	•••		9 June 1869
H	Ion. Ci	HAPLAIN.		
Rev. Frederick Thorpe		•••		20 Sep. 1876
[Blu	e -facii	ngs Scarlet.]		-
+ Date	e of beca	ming Surgeon	n.	

LEICESTERSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PENSIONERS.

The very unassuming "Staff Pension Office," No. 7, East Street, Leicester, has so much magnetic attraction in every quarter for the pensioners of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, that one is almost reminded of the Persian poet's ejaculation regarding his country and his Shah :- "Iran is the centre of the universe and the centre of Iran art thou." This might be freely paraphrased to suit the case of the pensioners:-"No. 7 East Street is the centre of the universe, and the centre of No. 7 is Lieutenant-Colonel Kekewich!" That officer, late of the 83rd Foot, who saw service in the Crimea, is the honoured Lieutenant-Colonel of the Pensioners, and his able right-hand man is Sergeant-Major Higgins, late of the 29th Foot, who went through the Crimean campaign from the tragic rise of the curtain to its no less tragic fall. This is attested by the medals he wears on his breast, which comprise the Crimean medal, with a clasp each for Alma, Inkerman, Balaclava and Sebastopol, the Turkish medal, and the "good conduct" medal. He has an excellent comrade at No. 7 in Quarter-Master Sergeant T. Wright, who belonged to

the 106th Foot, and has seen altogether 21 years of foreign service, chiefly in India but part of the time in the Crimea, for which latter campaign he wears the Crimean medal, with a bar for Sebastopol, and the Turkish medal, as well as a "good conduct" medal. The oldest pensioner is Mr. William Green, 21, Framland Street, 97 years of age and 67 years a pensioner, to whose history I have alluded at some length, in describing the "Veterans' Banquet;" and the next in age is Sergeant William Henson, who has the distinguished honour of wearing the Waterloo medal and also a medal for the assault and capture of Bhurtpore, in the East Indies, under Lord Combermere. This veteran spent 29 years in the army, 22 years in India, and was discharged on 26th August, 1840. Amongst the vounger notables, are two wearers of that much-coveted distinction the Victoria Cross. The one is Frederick Hitch, Nottingham, of the 2-24th, one of the "raw recruits" so much criticised in Zululand. He was in the army but two-and-a-half years altogether, but made himself name and fame as one of the heroes of Rorke's Drift, for which he was decorated by Her Majesty's own gracious hand. He was discharged in consequence of the effect of a gunshot wound in the right shoulder joint and, in addition to the £10 per annum, which the V.C. carries. Hitch enjoys a pension of one shilling per day for life and also wears the newly struck Zulu war medal. Few men, or perhaps I should say boys, have had the same fortune after thirty-four brief months in the service. The other local man decorated with the V.C. is Samuel Morley, of Nottingham, late of the Military Train, of whose services, singularly enough, there is no record in the Staff Pension Office. Morley has no pension beyond his V.C. allowance of £10 per annum. About one-third of the pensioners consists of non-commissioned officers. The homes of these veterans are scattered throughout the district of which Leicester is the "military centre" in the following alphabetical proportions:-

		Chels	ea Pensio	ners.	Marines.		Sailors.
Ashby-de-la-	\mathbf{Zouch}		17		3		
Hinckley	• •		26		2		
Kegworth			5		1		,
Leicester			531		56		15
Loughboroug	h		67		4		
Lutterworth	••		7		1		
Mansfield			50		4		
Market Bosw	orth	, 	. 4				
Market Harb	orough		18		6	•,•	1
Melton Mow	_		25				
Newark	•		87		3		3
Nottingham			560		41		16
Retford			19	• •	1		1
Southwell			14		1		
Worksop	• •		28	·	1 .		
-							_
	Totals		1,458		124		36

Of the above there are 370 enrolled pensioners and 135 of the old reserve fit for home-service, besides 451 of the first-class reserve fit for duty anywhere and forming a fine body of men who would be a firm backbone to the rawest battalion.

THE ROBIN HOOD RIFLES.

Wherever the Lincoln-green has appeared, it has won credit. The foundation was diminutive, but when one stone in the structure was Mr. Anthony John Mundella, of course the smallness of the number was made up for by weight. His late Grace of Newcastle sounded the gathering note in 1859, when a periodic dread of Napoleonic invasion took possession of the people and some of the people's presumedly wise heads. The popular then Mayor (Mr. E. Patchitt) took up the rallying cry, but only six names were received in the first instance, namely:—Mr. Mundella, aforesaid, Mr. Evans, Mr. Perry, Mr. J. G. Simpkins, and Mr. George Hine, who had to stand not a little "chaff" on their "playing at soldiers." Then it was that the father of the Regiment appeared in the person of Mr. Jonathan White, a simple, earnest-minded veteran, who, as Sergeant-

Major of the 2nd (Queen's Royal) Regiment, had covered himself with glory in the first Afghan campaign, and who, at the close of which, when offered a Commission, quietly replied:-"I would rather be a Sergeant-Major out of debt than an Ensign in debt." Made of such sterling stuff himself, "Jonty" White has made the Robin Hoods one of the crack Regiments of our "citizen soldiers;" a dress parade on the Castle grounds now being a very different spectacle to the squad drills in the grey dawn of three mornings weekly in the summer and autumn of 1859. The first list of officers contains such locally-distinguished names as those of Messrs. T. R. Starey, A. J. Mundella, Robert Evans, R. Birkin, R. Patterson, T. Ball, F. Parsons, John Watson, and Samuel Wright; and the first inspection of the Robin Hoods, then 400 strong, held by the Duke of Newcastle on 25th August, 1859, was witnessed by 5,000 spectators, who were admitted by ticket. Plenty of drill and close attendance at the butts, on the range at Mapperly, gradually brought the Lincoln-green to the front, and Sergeant-Major White's gratuitous services were warmly acknowledged by his comrades, who presented him with a gold watch and chain. In 1860, the full complement of field and staff officers, required for the successful working of a Battalion, was elected, the specially noteworthy circumstance being the appointment of Adjutant White; and in June the Robin Hoods took part in the first grand Volunteer Review in Hyde Park by Her Majesty, who was surrounded by a galaxy of such brilliant personages as the King of the Belgians, the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur, Prince Leopold, the Count of Flanders, the Duke of Cambridge, Princess Alice, Princess Louise, Princess Helena, the Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Jules of Holstein Glucksburg. the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, the Prince of Lichtenstein, the Prince and Princess of Leiningen, and Prince John of Holstein Glucksburg, besides an absolute constellation of nobility and gentry. A rifle from the Park Company and a fine charger from the ladies of Nottingham to Adjutant White, a set of regimental colours and a bugle to the Regiment, were presented by Lady Belper at Belvoir Castle, where the Regiment had been invited by the Duke of Rutland; and Major Dick, Assistant Inspector of Volunteers for the Midland District, was

highly gratified with the appearance and performance of the Robin Hoods. Adjutant White, in 1861, distinguished himself at Hythe School of Musketry, passing his examination with credit, and carrying off from other competing Adjutants at the school a rifle-shooting prize of £15. In 1863, the Regiment possessed an effective strength of 994, and the usual attendance at Battalion drills was about half that number. In May of this year, from their appearance at the second Review in Hyde Park. the Volunteer Service Gazette described the Robin Hoods as "one of the finest Battalions on the grounds." On arriving home, a cheer was demanded for the Adjutant, but in a very characteristic way he interposed :- "No, no, my lads, it is Sunday morning; go home and get to bed." The most fruitful idea for the establishment of a prize-fund for rifle competition originated in Adjutant White's clear intellect, and the desirability of the schemes being copied by the Leicestershire and other Volunteer Regiments, leads me to briefly enter into details. By yearly subscriptions, limited to one sovereign, Adjutant White, in fifteen vears, has raised the extraordinary sum of over £4,000, as shown in the following table:-

ROBIN HOOD RIFLES.

HEAD QUARTERS, NOTTINGHAM CASTLE.

19th December, 1879.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

By Lieutenant-Colonel CHARLES SEELY, Commanding.

No. 1.—The following detailed statement is published for the information of all concerned:—

concornou .	BATTALION	PRIZE	FUND.		An	ou	at.	
Dates.	Receipts.				£	s.	d.	
1865—To donations	of £1 each	•••			120	0	0	
1866-To donations	of £1 each	•••	•••		145	0	0	
1867-To donations	of £1 each		•••	٠٠.	170	0	0	
1868-To donations	of £1 each		•••	•••	218	0	0	
1869-To donations	of £1 each	•••	•••		242	0	0	
1870—To donations	of £1 each		•••	•••	256	0	0	
1871—To donations	of £1 each		•••	•••	231	0	0	
1872—To donations	of £1 each			•••	272	0	0	
1873—To donations	of £1 each			•••	276	0	0	
1874 - To donations	of £1 each	`	•••	•••	300	0	0	
1875-To donations	of £1 each				322	0	0	
1876—To donations	of £1 each	•••	•••	••.	330	0	0	
	1865—To donations 1867—To donations 1867—To donations 1868—To donations 1869—To donations 1870—To donations 1871—To donations 1872—To donations 1873—To donations 1874—To donations 1875—To donations		Dates. Receipts. 1865—To donations of £1 each 1866—To donations of £1 each 1867—To donations of £1 each 1869—To donations of £1 each 1869—To donations of £1 each 1870—To donations of £1 each 1871—To donations of £1 each 1872—To donations of £1 each 1873—To donations of £1 each 1874—To donations of £1 each 1875—To donations of £1 each	1865—To donations of £1 each 1866—To donations of £1 each 1867—To donations of £1 each 1868—To donations of £1 each 1869—To donations of £1 each 1870—To donations of £1 each 1871—To donations of £1 each 1872—To donations of £1 each 1873—To donations of £1 each 1874—To donations of £1 each 1875—To donations of £1 each	Dates. Receipts. 1865—To donations of £1 each 1866—To donations of £1 each 1867—To donations of £1 each 1868—To donations of £1 each 1869—To donations of £1 each 1870—To donations of £1 each 1871—To donations of £1 each 1873—To donations of £1 each 1874—To donations of £1 each 1875—To donations of £1 each	Dates. Receipts. £ 1865—To donations of £1 each 120 1866—To donations of £1 each 145 1867—To donations of £1 each 170 1868—To donations of £1 each 242 1870—To donations of £1 each 256 1871—To donations of £1 each 272 1873—To donations of £1 each 1874—To donations of £1 each 1875—To donations of £1 each 1875—To donations of £1 each	Dates. Receipts. £ s. 1865—To donations of £1 each 120 0 1866—To donations of £1 each 145 0 1867—To donations of £1 each 170 0 1868—To donations of £1 each 218 0 1869—To donations of £1 each 242 0 1870—To donations of £1 each 231 0 1872—To donations of £1 each 272 0 1873—To donations of £1 each 300 0 1875—To donations of £1 each 322 0	Dates. Receipts. £ s. d. 1865—To donations of £1 each 120 0 0 1866—To donations of £1 each 145 0 0 1867—To donations of £1 each 170 0 0 1868—To donations of £1 each 218 0 0 1869—To donations of £1 each 242 0 0 1870—To donations of £1 each 256 0 0 1871—To donations of £1 each 272 0 0 1873—To donations of £1 each 276 0 0 1874—To donations of £1 each 300 0 0 1875—To donations of £1 each 322 0 0

1877-To donations of £1 ea	ch	•••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	335	0	0
1878—To donations of £1 ea	ch			340	0	0
1879—To donations of £1 ea	ch			350	0	0
"—To Bank Interest (for	ırteen years)			72	6	1
"—To Cash in hand left	t from later	Regin	mental			,
Prizes	•••	•••		4	5	0
,, —To Balance		•••		24	3	3
				£4,007	14	4

The last prize distribution was on 19th December, 1879, by the late Adjutant, then promoted to the rank of Major White.

The following list clearly indicates the scope of the distribution:—

			£	8.	d.	
Awarded to Captains of Companies			200	0	0)
Awarded for Monthly Challenge Prizes			18	18	C)
Awarded Entrance Fees, Wimbledon			23	0	0)
Awarded to Wimbledon Competitors .		•••	15	1 5	()
Awarded for fares to Wimbledon .		•••	15	15	()
Awarded for individual prizes of £1 each	ı	•••	50	0	()
Awarded for Recruits' Class-firing Prizes	8	•••	10	10	()
Awarded for Annual Challenge Prizes .			5	5	()
Awarded Entrance Fee Inter-Regimenta	l Match		5	5	()
Awarded for the Leicester Match .			10	10	(0
Awarded for Regimental Match .			6	6	(6 -
Awarded for Stationery Account .	••		5	5	1	L
Awarded for expenses attending the Pre	sentation	of				
Prizes held 31st October, 1878 .			9	17	ç	•
Awarded for incidental expenses .			6	1	(0
Awarded for use of Mechanics' Hall .			5	.5	(0
Awarded to Permanent Staff and Custod	lian of To	wn				
Butts			3	3	;	0
Awarded for Bank Cheque Book			0) 4	Ļ	0
Deduct for four unpaid omised donation	ons, 1878		4	• 0)	0
			4,007	14	ı	4

The Duchess of St. Albans distributed the prizes in 1878, and in fact the distribution was annually made the occasion of a display calculated to raise the enthusiam and encourage the perseverance of the Regiment. Anticipating time a little, I may be allowed here to quote the remarks of the *Volunteer Service Gazette*. In the issue following the distribution of 1879, that journal said:—"The Robin Hood Rifles, and the town of Nottingham, have

testified in a manner which, though fully deserved, we can only characterise as magnificent, to their appreciation of the long, constant, and invaluable services of the former indefatigable Adjutant of the regiment, Major Jonathan White. In a comparatively short time a sum of no less than £1,500 was raised, and we are told that every single promise of subscription was The Robin Hoods have always stood among the best of our Volunteer regiments. That they took and have held this position has been owing undoubtedly to the excellent esprit de corps which has been fostered among them from the first perhaps in some degree to their good fortune in having always had excellent Commanding and other officers, and above all, we believe, to the cordial feeling of interest which the people of Nottingham, of all classes, have always taken in the corps. But besides all this, they have undoubtedly profited much by having had, from the beginning, so excellent a military tutor as Major White. Himself a most distinguished soldier, and, what was of scarcely less importance, a Nottingham man, and an enthusiast, not to say a fanatic for the military art, he taught the recruits of the Robin Hoods, from the first day he took them in hand to the last, that if they meant to be soldiers they must learn their work properly. It is sometimes said that the Volunteers are not fond of being found fault with. We may point in answer to this to the Robin Hoods, who lived under, perhaps, the strictest and most exacting Adjutant in Great Britain, who have repaid him by being universally admired as one of the best drilled and steadiest regiments that we have, and who, when he at length retires, show their appreciation of their stern instructor and old friend, by taking care that he and his shall not want at least for material comforts in their old age. The noble gift to Major White not only does honour to the donors, but testifies in the most unmistakable manner to the worth of the recipient. Major White has done a long, arduous, and honourable life's work, and we congratulate him heartily upon the evidence he has just acquired that those for whom he has laboured during the last score of years are not ungrateful to him."

For once, a gallant soldier received in his native town the honour that was his due. But to return to the earlier history of the Regiment. The Corps maintained its efficiency year by

by year, for I find on a visit to Kingston Park, the seat of Lord Belper, that the Robin Hoods mustered 673 of all ranks, and the praise they received from the Lord Lieutenant and Colonel Wombwell was unstinted. In April, 1866, the enrolled strength of the Regiment was 993, of whom the efficients numbered 89 per cent. and the extra efficients 63 per cent; and in the following June the Robin Hoods mustered at Hyde Park 654 strong; and at the close of the year 1,000 members stood on the roll, only 10 of whom had not earned the 20/-, while 890 were extra efficients and 160 marksmen. In 1867, Adjutant White scornfully rejected a bribe of £1,400 to induce him to resign the post; an incident which led to the disclaimer of having attempted bribery or undue influence, which every new Adjutant has now to make on the honour of an officer and gentleman. At the Leicester range in 1869, the Lincoln-green was lowered for once, but not dishonourably; the Leicestershire men (at 200, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots each distance) scoring 979 points, and the Robin Hoods 967. Colonel Wombwell, in this year, had no hesitation in pronouncing the "lambs" "equal in drill and appearance to any Battalion he had seen of the regular army." This result was achieved by, during the year, 19 commanding officer's parades with an average attendance of 450 men at each. The good feeling of the men to their chief was now signalised by the gift of a chastely designed silver dish and jug, weighing 200 oz., bearing the inscription:-"Presented by the Robin Hood Volunteers to their commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Wright, Nottingham, October 16th, 1867." On June 20th, 1868, the Lincoln-green cut no mean figure amongst the crack Regular and Volunteer Regiments that marched past the Queen in Windsor Park. An important movement was inaugurated in 1871 for the acquisition of a Drill-hall, which resulted in the purchase the Riding School, which lies under the shadow of the Castle and part of which is fitted up as a Gymnasium, much patronised by the members of the Regiment, who there enjoy all the advantages of physical education so very necessary to those more or less engaged in sedentary occupations. In 1873, the Robin Hoods retrieved their previous defeat by the Leicestershire at the butts, but Sir Henry Halford's keen-eyed and

steady-nerved boys took a good deal of beating. Next year the Belgian Cup was brought from Wimbledon to Nottingham, and in 1875 the Battalion mourned the resignation, from failing health, of Colonel Wright, who had been their popular Commandant for the long period of 14 years. A worthy successor was found in Colonel Seely (now senior M.P. for Nottingham), who received the Battalion with a capitation grant of £1,683, and has maintained, by arduous labour and sound judgment, the roll of extra-efficients at the solid figure of 1,000. More recent history is distinguished by the Hyde Park Review of 3rd July. 1876. when the Duke of Cambridge was especially complimentary to "Colonel Seely's fine Regiment;" the already-mentioned prize distribution by the Duchess of St. Albans in 1878; and the noble bearing of the Lincoln-greens at the Royal progress of the Prince and Princess of Wales to open Nottingham Castle as an The only alteration in the well-known uniform is Art Museum. the substitution of a well-balanced green helmet for a chaco, whereby greater cranial comfort is secured, if a trifle of the distinctive appearance of the Regiment is lost.

LEICESTERSHIRE VOLUNTEERS.

When the patriotic rallying cry of "Defence not Defiance" rang through the land, two-and-twenty years ago, Englishmen proved that, although the first Napoleon's taunt that we are "a nation of shopkeepers," might be a half truth, the other half of the truth is, that in the veins of each of us there flows a stirring strain of warlike blood which, on proper occasions, could not fail to throb warmly responsive to any call to arms for the protection of the unpolluted soil and sweet domesticities of England. The men of the town and county of Leicester were no laggards in answering the summons, for high and low and rich and poor came eagerly forward to enrol their names and learn the duties of citizen soldiers. The perusal of the names of the original members of No. 1 Company is very instructive. The complete list is as follows:—

Joshua Taylor Wordsworth, The Newarke. Alfred Donisthorpe, Belgrave, Charles Sebastian Smith, Cank Street. John Dennis Paul, Hotel Street. Frederick Richard Morley, Knighton. William Millican, Hotel Street. William Henry Underwood, Southgate Street. William Bowmar, The North. John Willis Goodwin, Highcross Street. Thomas William Cox, Market Street. William Hardy, Hotel Street. William Evans, Belgrave. Thomas Ingram, Welford Place. Richard Luck, High Street. Samuel Harris, West Cotes. Edward H. Paget, Friar Lane. J. R. Evans, High Street. James Watson, Highcross Street. W. J. Hitchcock, North Mills. Clement Stretton, Newfound Pool. William Watts, junr., High Street. Thomas Berridge, Millstone Lane. Alfred Hudson, The Crescent. Thomas Fielding Johnson, Regent Street. Alfred J. Hamel, London Road. John Dove Harris, jun., Knighton House, Edwin Hudson, Upper King Street. Thomas C. Browne, Market Place. Henry St. John Halford, Newton Harcourt. Thomas Holyland, Gallowtree Gate. Oliver Burton, Hav Market. Joseph Arnall, Bank Buildings. John H. Biggs, Stoney Gate. William Worthington Biggs, Stoney Gate. Gregory Knight, Friar Lane. George H. Wade, Hotel Street. John Crofts, Northgate Street. Robert Brewin, jun., Regent Street. Edgar Franklin Cooper, Princess Street. Harry J. Davis, King Street. Lewis Paget, High Street. G. C. Bellairs, Friar Lane. Thomas Smith, Hotel Street. James G. Moxon, High Street. John B. Law, Charles Street.

Dennis Paul, Market Place.
John Sloane, Infirmary.
George F. Lloyd, Gallowtree Gate.
James G. Henry, Belgrave.
Thomas Sheppard, Southgate Street.
Edward Rawson Denton, Charles Street.
Joseph Hames, jun., New Walk.
John Jackson Smith, The Crescent.
Frederick William Gardiner, Belgrave Gate.
Joseph Goddard, Market Street.
George H. Hodges, Knighton.
W. Holyoak, Belgrave Road.
John Garner, Granby Street.
Thomas Whitford, Bank of England.
Joseph E. Worthington, Princess Street.

Those thus forming the local nucleus of the force were swore in, on the old Cricket-ground, on 3rd March, 1859, and afterwards addressed in a stirring speech, by the late Mr. Wm. Biggs, Mayor of Leicester for that year.

The following gentlemen also gave in their names but were not enrolled:—

William Napier Reeve, Temple Row. William Irwin, Belvoir Street. Charles Angrave. West Street. Ensign Harby Barber, The Vicarage, Ashwell William Biggs, Stoney Gate (hon. member). T. C. Turner, Bank of England. R. Angrave, New Walk. Thomas Paget, High Street. Colin A. Macaulay, Welford Place. Hiram A. Owston, Princess Street. John Hellingworth, Friars' Causeway. Alfred Sargeant, London Road. Thomas James Wheeler, Belgrave Gate. John Nutt, London Road. John A. Bosworth, Humberstone Gate. J. M. Cooke, Granby Street. George Holmes, Grafton Place. William Sculthorpe, Princess Street.

No comment could so eloquently as the above simple record indicate the "military spirit" which, at the distant prospect of foreign invasion, spontaneously permeated all classes of the

community. In those days it was not merely a sacrifice of time to become a Volunteer, for up to 1861 it cost members at least £20 to cover entrance fee, annual subscription, uniform, belts and short Enfield rifle with sword bayonet. In addition to this. the corps purchased their own ammunition and paid the rent of their drill-ground and the wages of their drill-instructor first parade of the Leicester Corps was in the small yard in front of the Armoury and their first initiator into the art and mystery of war was Sergeant-Major Ellis. For the first year of formation, our enthusiastic townsmen drilled twice a day-at 11 a.m. on the Wharf Street Cricket-ground, and in the evening at Some were even so anxious after proficiency the Mount. that they would parade on the Abbey Meadow by 6 a.m. on a Monday morning and before the next "Day of Rest" came round, would place sixteen drills to their credit within a single week. No doubt, a portion of this energy was due to the novelty of the civico-military Institution, but throughout all these years, the Leicestershire Volunteers have kept themselves in the front rank for strength, appearance, discipline and skill as marksmen; while now, there is scarcely a corps in the Volunteer force that would have much to crow about in the presence of Sir Henry Halford's fine Regiment.

The first inspection by Earl Howe, in 1860, attracted Leicester and district, in immense numbers, to the Victoria Racecourse; not merely beauty and fashion but people of every grade vieing with each other in hearty appreciation of "their very own" citizen-soldiers. On that occasion, it was obvious to all that the Volunteers had worked hard at their military duties from the hour they took the oath, for the inspecting officer was able honestly and with not a little pride to compliment them on their steadiness and soldier-like appearance. Nor were the butts neglected, for Mr. Whitehouse, of Melton Mowbray, distinguished himself as the winner of the Association Silver Inkstand and a purse. Captain Harris presented the Regiment, for competition in volley-firing, with a valuable and powerful telescope. This was won by No. 1 (A) Company, and is still of great utility on the shooting-range.

Captain Nicholls, late 65th Foot, was appointed the first adjutant to the Regiment, on 4th January, 1861—a simple,

noble, old soldier whose efforts to raise the efficiency of the corps are still gratefully remembered. In April following, a theatrical performance was given for the purpose of raising the needful for six marching-past flags. Materials having been skilfully manipulated by the fair fingers of ladies of Leicester, these flags, on June 23rd ensuing, were presented to the Regiment by the wife of Col. Turner. By this time the "day of small things" had produced a bountiful harvest, for the "sixty" sworn in on the cricket ground had multiplied into a complete Regiment of 10 companies, five belonging to the town, and all averaging 70 men, so that the corps was quite 700 strong. On the evening of 23rd June, a large and representative regimental gathering met at a pleasant dinner in the Corn Exchange; the good comradeship at which formed a fitting prelude to the departure of the corps, next day, to Warwick, to join in a field-day, when the reviewing officer was Field Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge. Colonel Turner's strictness of discipline led to one or two incidents which, at this distance, are not unamusing. is a tradition that with drawn sword and on horseback he chased two thirsty souls, who had come out to "play at soldiers." into a taproom, and sent them back to their company with a few fleas in their ears.

In another episode there is an element of tragedy. The men in general had each his commissariat in his havresack. but provident No. 9 had brought a caterer along with them. to supply them with an elegant spread at the contract price of half-a-crown per head. The swells of No. 9 had barely unbuckled their belts and buckled to their dinners, when Colonel Turner rode up, and pointing with his sword to the dainty dejeuner, said to the humbler volunteers who were helping themselves from their havresacks, "Now then, men, I'll give you a quarter of an hour to fill your bellies!" Scarcely had this poaching permit been given, when an Aide-de-Camp rode up at full gallop, bearing to the Colonel the simple message-"Waiting!" The Colonel, at once, rode up to the men at dinner and ordered them to fall in; upon which ensued an indescribable scramble for the toothsome viands of Number 9, which found their way into many an illegitimate havresack. One volunteer seized a fowl, but his arm was knocked up

by Bugler Green, who cleverly caught the bird and instantaneously stowed it away. The grumbling companies were formed and the corps went off at the double to the viewing ground. Another incident is wholly comic. Private Kibley had been detailed to keep the ground, with strict orders to let no one pass. A miller -who owned the field-approaching with some ladies, Kibley ordered them off. The miller, not quite relishing this unceremonious dismissal from his own ground, "an up and a down" followed, at the close of which so well dusted was the Volunteer's dark uniform, that it would have been hard to tell at a short distance whether Kibley was the miller, or the miller was Kibley. On returning to Leicester, No. 9 showed a haughty stomach en revanche for the hungry stomach inflicted on them, and resigned in a body. Disapproving of this pettishness, I was one of the first to come forward to aid in its reorganisation. Halford succeeded Col. Turner in 1861. In this year, Sergeant-Major Bradley had the misfortune to receive a stray shot in the leg while sitting in the mantlet during volley-firing.

My connection with the Volunteer force dates from 1862, and I still owe not a little to the physical education of drill, and the lessons of seasonable obedience acquired therein; for what can mens sana accomplish unless it is casketed in corpore sano? and who can either rule or organize who has not known when to implicitly obey? My immediate chief was Captain (now Major) Bellairs, an officer and a gentleman than whom none has done more for the stability and efficiency of the Volunteer Institution. In the work of No. 9 Company I found a congenial field for my natural fondness for military pursuits. In less than 12 months I was promoted to the rank of Corporal and shortly afterwards to that of Quarter-Master Sergeant, with sole control of the stores. These promotions were not earned without application, which is shown by my certificate of efficiency, a facsimile of which it may be interesting-as the practice of giving those certificates has fallen into desuetude—to preserve in this volume :-

[&]quot;Certificates of Efficiency for Rifle Volunteer Corps having an Establishment less than that of a Battalion.

[&]quot;We hereby Certify

[&]quot;1. That ROBERT READ, No. 10, was enrolled in the 9th Leicestershire Rifle Corps on the 8th December, 1862.

- "2. That he attended during the eighteen months ending the 30th November, 1863, one hundred and two drills ordered by the Commanding Officer.
- "3. That he possesses a competent knowledge of Squad and Company Drill, including the Manual and Platoon Exercise and Skirmishing as a Company, as laid down in the Field Exercises of Infantry.
- "4. That he possesses a competent knowledge of the preliminary Musketry Drill, laid down in the Musketry Regulations for the Army.
- "5. That he was present at the last Annual Inspection of the Corps.

GEORGE C. BELLAIRS, Commanding Officer. R. M. NICHOLLS, Captain and Adjutant.

Head Quarters, Leicester.

1st December, 1863.

Certificate Confirmed.

Henry St. John Halford, Commanding Officer of Administrative Battalion."

Here also, to get rid once for all of purely personal matters, I may be pardoned for introducing, without comment, a brief extract from the *Leicester Advertiser* of 20th April, 1867:—

VOLUNTEER PRESENTATION.—On Wednesday evening last, the annual meeting of the 9th Company of L. R. V., was held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, under the presidency of Captain Bellairs. Lieutenant Paul was also present, and there was a good muster of the members. After the transaction of the ordinary business, Captain Bellairs rose and intimated to the Company that they had a duty to perform that evening before separating, which afforded very great pleasure. to present to Mr. Robert Read, jun., in the name of the Officers and Members of the 9th Company, a silver cup, as a mark of their appreciation of his energetic services in the volunteer cause since his connection with that corps. The worthy Captain spoke in high terms of the valuable assistance rendered by Mr. Read, in times when they had great difficulties to contend with in the way of procuring clothing for the men, and in addition to this his business qualifications had tended

greatly to economise their proceedings in this respect. Mr. Read had always been most willing to aid them in any way, and it was with feelings of the greatest satisfaction, and which he felt sure were participated in by all present, that he presented to Mr. Read the cup which he now held in his hand, trusting he might live long to enjoy the same. The Captain here presented the cup to Mr. Read, amidst applause. The presentation consisted of a very handsome silver cup, elegantly chased, and on which was the following inscription:—
'Presented to Quarter-Master Sergeant Read as a token of esteem, by the Officers and Members of the 9th Company of Leicestershire Rifle Volunteers, April 14th, 1867.' Mr. Read having responded in a neat and appropriate manner, concluded by assuring the company that the gift would be highly prized and would stimulate him to further exertion."

In the summer I joined the Volunteers, Quarter-Master Sergeant Evans died, and on 2nd June was buried with military honours.

The illustrious event which inaugurated the season of 1863, was the marriage of the Prince of Wales, on 10th March, to the "Sea-king's daughter from over the sea, Alexandra," who is now dearly treasured in the hearts of the whole English people. On the morning of the memorable day, the Battalion assembled for drill on the Race-course, and afterwards fired a feu de joie in the Market-place. On 9th and 10th June, Colonel Harman inspected the Regiment by companies on the old rifle range, at the close remarking, of the then sombre appearance of the clothing and the superfluity of rain, that the members looked as solemn as if they had just come from a funeral. In the following month, July, I accompanied the Regiment to Oxford to take part in a field-day, the reviewing officer being Major-General Rumley. The corps left Leicester at 5 a.m., and, getting off at a wayside station, this side of Oxford, marched along a series of lanes, arriving dry and dusty at 10 a.m. on Port Meadow, which had been recently flooded. Being allowed to fall out for a short time, we gladly took the opportunity of wetting our parched throats at a neighbouring brook, whence we carried water in our chacos. Destitute of any proper commissariat, we had to be content with a drink of cold water and a smell of the savoury

food being prepared for the Artists and other Cockney companies. whose members had come down provided with tents, cookingstoves, and abundant larders. A few of our boys, roaming wistfully amid the odorous steam, were taken pity on. policeman, who had relinquished his staff but not his love for mutton, was fortunate in being presented with a small leg which he, with marvellous generosity, shared with his friends. Review was fixed for 3 p.m., and we were obliged to lie in the hot sun until 1 p.m., when the order came to fall in. Having gone from 5 a.m. without rations, there was nothing for it but to draw our belts tighter and console ourselves that we were being treated to a taste of real campaigning. The Leicestershire Regiment, 800 strong, was part of the infantry attacking Oxford, supported by the Royal Artillery and the Duke of Manchester's light horse. In we went up to the knees, amid falling rain caused by the reverberating roar of our cannon. The Review was attended by thousands of spectators, and many hundreds of the more eager got dangerously sandwiched between the attacking and defending forces, causing much confusion. Review we were marched to Oxford, and would fain have sacked the public-houses, but the train was waiting, and taps would not run fast enough. A few bolder and more knowing spirits made a raid on cellars and ladled the beer out for themselves, but many had to leave Oxford without any refreshment and arrived at Leicester hungry, thirsty, tired and dispirited. The closing events of 1863 were the winning, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, by Sergeant Taylor, of the Lord Lieutenant's prize of £25, and the organisation, under Captain Bankart, of a second company of the 4th corps.

Colonel Harman again inspected and commended the Regiment in 1864. On 26th May of that year Ensign Biggs shot for and won the Lord Lieutenant's prize of £20; and on 30th October following, the same officer, in Belgium, carried off the Gold medal of the Association, the only prize awarded to an English competitor. Nothing of unusual interest occurred from this time until 1866. In that year I formed one of the volunteer guard of honour at the figurative launch in the Soar, near the North Mills, of the life-boat "Leicester." The contributions to this life-boat were very numerous, and the success of the

humane effort was largely due to the zealous exertions of the late Mrs. T. W. Hodges. Mr. R. Lewis, Secretary of the National Life Boat Institution, has kindly favoured me with the following complete official list of the

SERVICES OF THE "LEICESTER" LIFE-BOAT; STATIONED AT GORLESTON, NEAR YARMOUTH.

1870—reb. 13, Brig Glovannina A, or venice.	o nves saveu.
1872—Jan. 1, Schooner "Sybil," of Yarmouth.	5 lives saved.
1875 - Feb. 24, Schooner "Jessie Brown," of Yarmouth.	5 lives and vessel.
1875-Aug. 5, Smack "Sophia," of Hull.	4 lives and vessel.
1875—Dec. 21, Smack "Galatea," of Yarmouth.	Remained by vessel.
1876-Nov. 12, Brig "Vulcan," of Whitstable.	10 lives saved.
1877—April 15, Smack "White Rose."	6 lives and vessel.
1877 - Nov. 11, Brig "Anna Maria," of Blyth.	Assisted to save vessel
, - , -	and 7 lives.
1878-Nov. 8, Brigantine "Old Goody," of Faversham.	Assisted to save vessel
	and 8 lives.
1878-Nov. 8, Schooner "Zephyr," of Montrose.	Assisted to save vessel

1879—Nov. 13, Smack "Violet," of Yarmouth.

1879—Nov. 14, Smack "Ann Wilmet," of Lowestoft.

1970 Tel 19 Drie "Ciarannina A" of Vanias

and 5 lives.

Assisted to save vessel and 6 lives.

5 lives saved.

... 75.

1879—Nov. 14, Smack "Ann Wilmet," of Lowestoft. 5 lives saved. 1880—May 4, Schooner "Pride of the Isles," of Bridport. 6 lives saved.

Total number of Lives saved ...

This is plain proof that "bread cast upon the waters" will return in blessings on the giver after many days; for a record of 75 lives saved from watery graves by the "Leicester," must be a blessed consideration to each one who in any way aided to "launch the life-boat" and make the name of our beloved town a watchword of hope amid the stormy billows of the German ocean.

In 1868, Quarter-Master Sergeant Charles Tustin visited and took part in the Belgian "Tir National," coming home decorated with medals. Up to 1869, the Robin Hoods had nearly always come off conquerors at the butts. In that year, however, they lowered their flag to a Leicester team, the latter making 979 points and the former 967. I can loyally wish that this victory had been more lasting, but honourable defeat is no disgrace, and where a crack shot like Sir Henry Halford is at the head of the Regiment, I am sure nothing will be left undone to increase the prestige of Leicestershire men among the marksmen of the Kingdom. At Wimbledon, Sir Henry's

name is "familiar as a household word," having proved his deadly skill with almost every description of rifle. In the breech-loading competitions he is always well up, and has secured many valuable prizes. His resignation of the Colonelcy in 1873 would have been an irreparable loss, and every volunteer was delighted when he re-accepted the command vice Sir A. R. Palmer, late of the Rifle Brigade, who held the Colonelcy during the intervening five years and a half, which were chiefly spent by Sir Henry abroad.

In 1873, the annual inspection of the Regiment took place on 11th August, but nothing noteworthy occurred. On 31st August, 1874, by kind permission of Mrs. Perry-Herrick, the corps assembled for field exercise at Beacon Hill. On 31st October, 1876, Sergeant-Instructor William Sikes was discharged from the Regiment at his own request. This gentleman, in 1872, had the honour of being the best shot out of 142 non-commissioned officers from all volunteer corps in the Kingdom, who had completed a course of instruction at Hythe School of Musketry. The notable incident of 1876, however, was the Volunteer Review, in Hyde Park, by the Prince of Wales, on 1st July, when the appearance of the Leicestershire Regiment was highly commended by Field Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge. The Regiment then appeared in grey uniform, instead of their present glowing scarlet, or they might probably have been honoured with even a higher eulogium. The annual inspection followed on 2nd August, and proved highly satisfactory to all concerned. Four days later, the corps took a prominent part in the imposing inaugural ceremony at the opening of the Municipal Buildings.

Authority was received, on 2nd July, 1877, to assume the scarlet uniform. A few retired, as anticipated, but the strength of the Regiment afterwards increased, and on 11th August, 1877, the Regiment attended a Review at Manchester, and was much admired in the new dress. The Veterans' Banquet, referred to at length in another part of this volume, was given on Guy Fawkes' day, in this year, and the volunteers rendered valuable service on the occasion. Captain Rolph, late of the 1-17th Regiment, w 2 appointed Adjutant on 23rd January, 1877. The Captain is every inch a soldier, as popular as

he is nainstaking: and though a courteous gentleman, by no means a lax disciplinarian. On 22nd March following, Major-General Burnaby (then Colonel E. S. Burnaby, commanding Grenadier Guards) was gazetted Honorary Colonel of the Leicestershire Volunteers; signalising the event by presenting the Regiment with a Battalion Challenge Shield, to be shot for as Sir Henry Halford might decide. The design of the shield is by Sir F. Leighton, P.R.A., and represents the glorious episode in the battle of Inkerman, when a few score of the brave Grenadier Guards saved the colours of the Regiment from the fierce onslaught of 2,000 Russians. The work was entrusted to Messrs. Elkington, and has been carried out with admirable art. The shield is valued at 100 guineas, and is a magnificent regimental trophy. I understand, General Burnaby has presented a replica of the shield, in silver, to his old and distinguished Regiment.

From 2nd to 8th August, 1879, four Leicestershire companies went under canvas in Willesley Park, the seat of the Earl of Loudoun. The encampment was thoroughly successful, and proved so great an attraction, both to the Volunteers and to the public, that it was subsequently decided to endeavour to continue the encampment annually and, if possible, on a larger scale. After the break-up of the first encampment, the following Batalion order was issued:—

"Leicester, 1st August, 1879.

"The Lieut.-Colonel commanding cannot permit the breaking-up of the first encampment, composed of the following corps, viz.:—2nd Belvoir, 3rd Melton, 6th Loughborough, 8th Ashby, to pass by without expressing to all ranks his satisfaction with the results of the encampent and his thanks for the very soldier-like manner in which they performed their duties, in spite of the bad weather and the other difficulties they had to encounter. Where all have done so well, it would be invidious to particularise further than the heads of departments, on whose zeal and devotion the comfort and welfare of the camp depended. The commanding officer, therefore, desires his special thanks to Lieut. and Quartermaster Thomas S. Brooks, who, assisted by Quartermaster Sergeant T. Ancott, 10th corps, acting as camp Quartermaster Sergeant, organised and carried out the Commissariat

Department in a very efficient manner. To Acting Surgeons Willan and Bryan for their attention to the sick and the sanitary arrangements of the camp. To the Mess President, Major Millican, for the provision of the officers' mess. To Captain Adcock, who carried out with discretion and successfully the camp canteen. To Captain Davis for forming an excellent band from the several corps. To Regimental Bandmaster J. A. Smith for his indefatigable attention to his men, and for the selection of music both for drill and camp enjoyment. To Lieutenant Brindley for the concert arrangements and his exertion for the amusement of the camp and visitors.

"The commanding officer, on behalf of the County Corps, thanks Captain Sebastian Smith and the 50 Volunteers from Leicester for coming to camp to keep the ground on inspection day. This display of comradeship was duly appreciated.

"To Sergeant Thomas Shipton, who contracted to provide the utensils and cooked for the camp, and who fulfilled his contract most satisfactorily.

"Finally, the commanding officer hopes that the association, as a military body, the habits of order and regularity which discipline demands, and which alone can be acquired by a Volunteer Regiment in camp, will be the means of insuring the formation of a camp for the whole Regiment in the drill season of 1880."

I need scarcely say that the Colonel's warmly expressed hope was realised to the full satisfaction of the most sanguine. On 20th May, 1879, the new range at Evington was opened by Colonel Burnaby, and, on the 15th of the following October, the Colonel's Challenge Shield was competed for with the following result:—

```
"A" Company, 4th Corps
                               230 Points.
                9th Corps
                               225
"B" Company, 4th Corps
                               200
               10th Corrs
                               189
                2nd Corps
                               188
                                     ,,
                3rd Corps
                               183
                8th Corps
                               150
"A" Company, 5th Corps
                               124
                1st Corps
                               114
                6th Corps
                                79
                                     ,,
```

Thus the 4th Corps (Captain Richardson's) had the honour of being the first winners of the beautiful trophy, and it is needless to say that they proudly exhibited it at their annual dinner in the Corn Exchange, on the 14th April, 1880. On that occasion a beautiful dress sword was presented to Quarter-Master Brooks, on his promotion, in acknowledgment of indefatigable services.

In 1879, the usual complement of Leicestershire men went to Wimbledon, but were particularly unfortunate; nothing notable being done except by Private Messenger. In such desperate cases, "better luck next time" is a very good motto, and in another year it was duly realised to be so. The annual return match with the Robin Hoods was shot at Nottingham at the end of the year, but the failure of the Leicester men did not close their hearts against the warm hospitality of their comrades of the Metropolis of Lace.

Sir Henry Halford followed out, in 1880, the system inaugurated the year before, of taking the Regiment seriatim through the Field Exercise; announcing beforehand, for the information of the officers, the particular portion that would be gone through on a given occasion. Thus the subalterns and the recently added new materials soon worked in harmonious concert; and when the Regiment, in a body, went under canvas in Willesley Park, it proved to be in a most admirable state of efficiency and discipline. The camp arrangements were as admirable as the location was picturesque; and from the attention paid by Quarter-Master Brooks to the Commissariat Department, I should presume he means to earn another dress sword before he answers the Volunteer muster-roll for the last time. Bad weather was relieved by chaff, amusement abounded in the intervals of drill, and the Regiment returned from under canvas better men both morally and physically, and above all, decidedly better soldiers. After undergoing a trying ordeal of inspection on a rolling and wooded review ground, Colonel Chippindall, who does not praise lightly, complimented the 1,000 men for their soldierly appearance and steadiness. At Wimbledon all the Leicestershire men made good average scores, although in the shooting for the Queen's Prize, only one, Private Newham, secured a "badge" and the honour

so dear to a marksman, of ranking among the "sixty." The cordiality existing between the officers and the camuraderic characterising officers, non commissioned officers, and men, give good promise that the Leicestershire Regiment of Volunteers will enjoy a long, united existence, and a distinguished career. I shall not be satisfied until my old comrades are distinguished as the crack corps of the Kingdom.

Amongst presentations to the Corps, in addition to those already mentioned, there should be noted a Silver Bugle with the following inscription:—"Presented by Mrs. Wordsworth, to the 5th Company, Leicestershire Volunteers, 1860;" and a drum-major's baton, inscribed as follows:—

"Presented to the 31st Regiment of Leicestershire Rifle Volunteers, by SAMUEL HARRIS, Captain 1st Company, 1861."

Subjoined is a complete list of officers, at 31st October, 1880:—

HONOBARY COLONEL.

Major-General Edwyn S. Burnaby.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL.

Sir Henry St. J. Halford, Bart.

Majors.

George C. Bellairs. William Millican.

CAPTAINS.

Charles S. Smith. Thomas D. Paul. James J. Gibson. John G. F. Richardson. Richard S. Toller.

Samuel Davis.

William W. Goode. Arthur Guy Ellis. George H. Gibson. Lionel P. Powell. William W. Wartnaby.

LIEUTENANTS.

John E. Sarson.
William F. Hitchcock.
Horace W. Plant.
Sam Davis.
Francis J. Challis.
George N. Wing.

Joseph Hatchett. Donald Campbell. Edward L. Clare. Thomas R. Pickering.
William J. Freer.
Geoffrey Ellis.
Christopher B. Hutchinson.
Henry Meadows.

2nd Lieutenants.

Joseph Drayton Roberts. Samuel F. M. Stone. Robert Symington.

Richard Barker.

ADJUTANT.

William Mogg Rolph, Captain 17th Foot.

QUARTER-MASTER.
Thomas S. Brooks.

SUBGEON.

Edward R. Denton.

ACTING SURGEONS.

James Wright. George Thomas Willan. Clement F. Bryan Robert B. Smith.

Hon. Chaplains.

Rev. John Denton.

Rev. John F. Halford.

The following is a Statement of Efficients and Non-Efficients from the year 1863 to the 31st October, 1880, kindly furnished me by Sergeant-Major Joiner:—

Date.	Proficients at 50s.	Efficients at 30s.	Efficients at 20s.	Non-efficients.	Total Strength.	Annual	Grant.	Camp	Allowance.	Travelling	Allowance.	Stationery	Allowance.	Total	Grant
	Ā	E	鱼	<u> </u>		E.	в. ——	£	8.	£	8.	£	8.	£	8.
1863					825	690	0			27	8			717	8
1864		342	258	230	850	771	0			51				828	
1865		287	343	198	828	773	10			49	12			823	2
1866		391	374	12 9	894	960	10			(1	8			1021	18
1867		496	255	149	900	999	0			90	15			1089	15
1868		528	301	111	940	1093	0			94	5			1187	5
1869		707	123	107	937	1183	10			88	10			1272	
1870		779	90	90	959	1258	10			85	5			1343	15
1871	37	706	88	105	936	1295	0			84	5			1379	
1872	40	637	88	110	875	1203	10			68	5			1271	15
1873	3 9	630		112	781	1116	0	-		56	5			1172	5
1874	36	675		47	759	1158	0			62	5	40	0	1260	15
1875	37	608		93	738	1060	0			69	5	40	0	1169	5
1876	44	677		85	806	1191	0			71	5	40	0	1301	15
1877	40	738		75	853	1267	10			81	10	40	0	1388	10
1878	65	904		66	970	1518	10			94	0	40	0	1653	10
1879	68	934		68	1070	1673	0	224	19			44	0	1941	19
1880	77	951		93	1044	1619	0	444	1			44	0	2107	1
		J												l	

AMUSEMENTS-OLD AND NEW.

practically acted on the apophthegm that "all work and practically acted on the apophthegm that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The felt power of imitation produced the pastime of dramatic entertainment by means of action, facial expression and speech, eventually shaped by pose, culture and such strong emotions as are evoked by patriotism or religion. Whether the first member of the "profession" was Satan, in his paradisaic "personation" of a "Serpent," I may respectfully leave exuberant theologians to quarrel over. For details of the localisation of

MIRACLE PLAYS, &c.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the elaborate expiscation, by Mr. William Kelly, of the Chamberlain's Accounts. First came the "Miracle Plays" illustrative of Biblical narratives or "miracles" with which various saints of the Church were traditionally credited. So realistically were these spectacles "staged" that the representatives of Adam and Eve appeared without even the slight adventitious adjuncts of fig leaves. Our ancestors were bold enough to venture to depict the "Creation," the "Fall of Lucifer," and the "General Judgment of the World." Like Chaucer's "Wife of Bath," they varied the monotony of life by "visitations" to vigils, processions, preachings, marriages, and "playes of miracles," the ladies there wearing and airing their "gay skarlet gites," or gowns. In those days there was no need for

a "Church and Stage Guild," for as the plays were presumed to have a celestial "moral," the Church was then the Theatre. In fact, it was held a sin to witness the Birth or Resurrection of Christ on "highways or greens," while "yn the cherche" in the development of Conception, Birth and Resurrection, the players might "pleye without yn plyght."

There were dramatic processions on Whit-Monday from St. Mary's to St. Margaret's in honour of the Virgin Mary, in which bonnet-labelled representatives of the twelve Apostles. accompanied by Parish Virgins, followed the Virgin's image, carried through the streets under a canopy borne by four persons, and preceded by harpists and other instrumental musicians, while "King Edward's standard," the "Trinity banner," and "the great streamer of silk," so called, were imposingly displayed. Mr. Kelly says:--"The procession in honour of the Virgin left the precincts of that once proud Castle-by turns the residence of the Beaumonts, the De Montforts, and the Plantagenets-and, in the early summer morning, wending its way along the quaint old streets, lined on either side by picturesque timber houses, whose doors and overhanging windows, storey above storey, were crowded with spectators, proceeded by the High Cross, and leaving the town by the North Gate; finally, after passing St. John's Cross at its entrance, traversed the Sancta Via or Holy way-the Sanveygate of modern times-and entered the Church of St. Margaret, where oblations were made at the high altar. These consisted in part of two pairs of gloves, one pair said to be for God and the other for St. Thomas of India. On returning to St. Mary's, after the conclusion of the ceremony, the representatives of the Apostles, the banner-bearers, minstrels, and others who had assisted at it, were either remunerated for their service in money, or, as was more usual, regaled at the expense of the parish—for many years a calf having been provided for that purpose, which in 1513 cost 2s. 4d. A breakfast provided in one instance (1525) consisted of "half a calf and three calves" heads and two plucks, with ale, &c." By the parish accounts of 1490, the "postulls and all manner of things" cost the immense sum of 2s. 6d. and the receipts of St. Margaret's realised the handsome total of 6d. Three years later, the "Apostles and others" consumed in bread, ale, fish, &c., a lawyer's minimum fee of 3s. 4d. Most likely, the procession halted at intervals to give performances "in dumb-show or otherwise," but the descriptive work of Master Richard de Leicester, "a great clerk," has been irretrievably lost. In the following year, the accounts of St. Mary's show, "Paid to the players at Even in the Church VId." So fond were the Corporation of these "Miracle plays," that in 1551 they positively deprived themselves of the luxury of a venison feast "because of the play that was in the Church."

There are many curious entries in the accounts of St. Mary's Church of payments made for stage "properties." Take, for example, the following in 1504:—Paid for mending the garment of Jesus and the cross painting, 1s. 3d.; Paid for a pound of hemp to mend the angels' heads, 4d.; Paid for linen cloth for the angels' heads and Jesus' hoose, making, in all, 9d.; Charcoal and a cord for the vail, 2d. In the accounts of St. Martin's for 1546-7, there is this entry "Item, paid for makynge of a sworde and payntyng of the same for Harroode;" no doubt referring to a representation of the "miracle play" entitled "The Slaughter of the Innocents," in which Herod was wont to rant and swagger consumedly. In 1861, from the theatrical wardrobe attached to St. Mary's "Serten Stuff" was "lent to the players of Fosson" for which VId was received; and in 1556 a like amount was paid to the "three Shepperds" at Whitsuntide, who, no doubt, took part in the seasonable play of "The Adoration of the Shepherds," in which an elaborate attempt was made to depict country life, including a pastoral wrestling match before the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem and the angelic song, Gloria in excelsis. On Palm Sunday the "pageant play" was "the holy mystery of Christ's riding to Jerusalem" on an ass. The singing of the "Passion" on the same day was the rude forerunner of the sublime performance of Bach's Passion Music, which Canon Vaughan has accustomed us moderns to expect at St. Martin's. My brother "Shearmen and Taylors in Coventry," I may note, en passant, became famous for their "pageants," usually performed in the town highways—the word pageant originally meaning the sixwheeled, two-storeyed vehicle in which the players moved from place to place, and which formed their dressing room and Theatre.

RIDING OF THE GEORGE.

Naturally, as the patron saint of England, "St. George's Pageant" was a favourite entertainment. The performance was in this wise. An ancient suit of harness was fitted on a sturdy labourer and another powerful man entered into and bore the dragon. Surrounded by all the municipal dignitaries, they proceeded through the streets, amid patriotic, popular shouts of "St. George for England." From the sight of this spectacle at Stratford, Mr. Knight imagines that the boy Shakespeare "may first have conceived the capability of exhibiting to the eye a moving picture of events, and of informing it with life by appropriate dialogue." The "Riding of the George," between St. George's day and Whitsuntide, Throsby says was "the grandest solemnity of the town," celebrated by the entire inhabitants from the highest to the lowest, and not unfrequently the Earl of Huntingdon and other nobility and gentry of the district attended the celebration and were presented with wine. &c., by the Corporation. The end of the reign of Henry VIII. also saw the end of this dramatic pageant in Leicester, and in 1547, after the accession of Edward VI, the Corporation sold "the horse that George rode on" for 12d., the floor and the "vaute" that George stood on for 3s. 10d., and the "vowte" over St. George's altar for 2s. 8d. The "rising" of Queen Bess, "in maiden meditation fancy free," heralded the decline of all these spectacles, but jejune traces of them still linger in rural villages "far from the madding crowd."

THE MUMMERS.

"It seems certain," writes Sir Walter Scott, "that the Mummers of England who used to go about in disguise to the neighbouring houses present, in some indistinct degree, a shadow of the old Mysteries, which were the origin of the English Drama." Many still remember the last vestige of the Christmas Mummers of Leicester, so well described by Mr. William Kelly, "going about the town from house to house, some of them wearing high conical caps of pasteboard, decorated with ribbons and gilt paper, and carrying swords (of which

harlequin's lath is a distinct survival), a club, frying pan, &c., whilst—

White shirte supplied the masquerade, And smutted cheeks the visors made."

These Mummers made a distinct advance from "Miracle Plays" to "Moral Plays" or secular allegories, to which were subsequently added "Interludes," the nearest now-a-day parallel to which is to be found in the modern comedietta. The year 1564 seems to have been a gay one in the annals of Leicester, judging from the following payments, the spelling of the entries being modernised:—

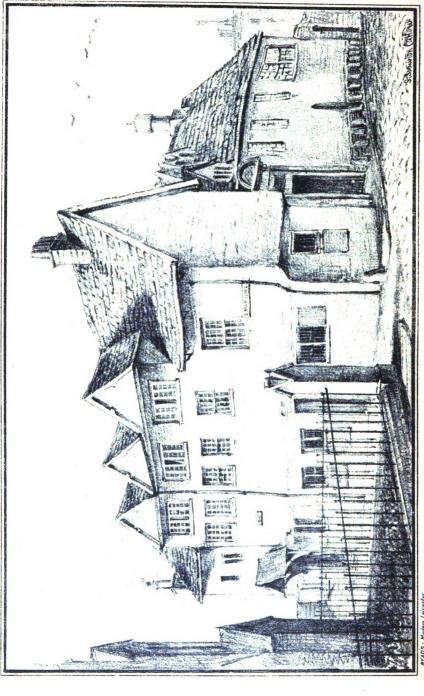
It.—To the players of Coventry more than w	as	8.	d.
gathered on the Twelfth night		1	8
It.—Given to my Lord Loughborough's jest	er		
the next Friday after		1	0
1564.			
It.—Given to Sir Henry Clinton's Bearway	d,		
19 January		2	0
It.—Given to my Lord Robert's players,	st		
July		10	0
It.—Given to Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe's playe			
5 July		3	0
It.—Given to the Queen's players, 2nd Augu	st	13	4
It.—Given in Reward to my Lord Derby's Be			
ward, 25th Sept		3	4
It.—To Mr. Gillott for the Waits' gowns		6	8
It Paid to my Lord Huntingdon's Bearwa	rd		
more than was gathered		5	0
It.—Paid to my Lord Scoope's players m			
than was gathered		3	8
It Paid to my Lord of Hunsdon's play	yers		
more than was gathered		5	0
It Paid to Mr. Hibbatt's players more th			
was gathered		2	6
ItPaid to strange Waits and other minstr	els		
at the Mayor's dinner		6	8
It.—Paid to Edward Astell and his fellows		2	0
It.—Paid to the children that played under M	Ir.		
Pott		5	0
Paid to the Queen's jester	• •	3	4

This was too much for the conscience of some members of the Corporation, and at a "Comon Haule" an Act was passed, in the ninth year of Elizabeth, "agaynst Waystynge of the Towne Stock" by means of "Bankets of Venyson, of gifts and rewards given to players, musiciens, jesters, noblemen's Berewards, and such like charg;" and it was enacted that the Mayor and his brethren should each be his share, instead of drawing on the Chamberlain, except any sum of 5s. or under bestowed by "Commandment of Mr. Majore only, for the tyme bevnge, ffor the worshipp of the said towne of Leicester, when and as ofte as occasion shall move hym." The Town Hall was then Ithe usual theatre. About 1574, companies of juvenile players known as the "Children of the Revels," visited the town. foreshadowing such a clever modern institution as the "Children's Pinafore Company." Two rival companies simultaneously coming to town in 1583-namely, the players of the Master of the Revels and the players of the Earl of Worcesterand the latter seeking to pick a quarrel with and appropriate the license of the former, the Mayor refused to allow the latter to perform. They paraded the town, abused the Mayor, and declared their intention of playing at their Inn, in defiance of his Worship. They afterwards, however, penitently submitted themselves to authority, and received permission to play at their Inn on the following night. Without such permit, they would have realised the truth of the couplet that-

> Beggars they are, with one consent, And rogues by Act of Parliament.

The Earl of Leicester's players played in this town in various years from 1563 to 1574. In the latter year, they returned to London via Stratford-on-Avon, receiving 6s. 8d. from the town funds for their performance. Shakespeare was then eleven years old, and it is reasonable to conclude that he, as the son of an influential member of the Corporation, would make one of the audience at the Guild Hall. I also hold with Mr. Kelly that it will not be "drawing too wildly upon the imagination to suppose it probable that to the frequent presence of Shakespeare in our interesting old town, the world is indebted for the first germs of those poetic thoughts being implanted in his mind which afterwards produced those imperishable fruits of his genius—





Lear and Richard III." The late J. F. Hollings also notices the striking similarity between the weird scenery of Charnwood and the scene in which "Lear" is laid, from which he concludes that the Forest is the wild original of Shakepeare's vivid pictures. This, at any rate, is indisputable. By the Chamberlain's Accounts, "the Queen's Players," a company to which Shakespeare belonged, visited the town for a series of years, sometimes twice annually. According to Mr. Kelly, "the natural conclusion is that, even if not present in every instance, the poet-actor must, not unfrequently, have taken part in the representation in our Town Hall of some of his own immortal creations, and . . . it is surely something, even yet, to be able to gaze on the very pulley which has revolved to draw aside the curtain, and disclose a Shakespeare on the stage."

BEAR-BAITING.

I have already alluded to bear-baiting as the appetiser which our ancient Mayors provided for their guests between the heavy dinner and the no less heavy dessert. That is not to be wondered at when Queen Elizabeth delighted in bear-baiting, and the sport was one of the learned and pedantic James I's "princely pleasures." If money had been scarce in the Leicester Treasury, we dare say the people would not have objected to the example of Congleton, Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, and Ecclesfield. where the Corporation Bibles were sold for wherewithal to buy The sport was even underlined—to use a theatrical phrase—for Sundays as well as holiday seasons. Leicestershire has indeed the fortune to be the first County where this "amusement of African Origin" was first indulged in, and King John's local fame may rest on two things-the one, allowing Magna Charta to be wrung from him, and the other being "highly delighted" with a bear-baiting at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. A frolicsome Bruno might lately have been seen playing "Old Harry" round the "Full Moon" in Russell Square, but even a mild performing bear is now a great curiosity outside a circus or menagerie. Men turn pale and women shriek, in these days, if

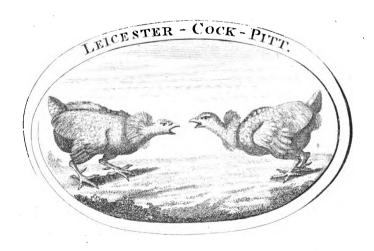
an enraged Russian or Polar should turn and hug its keeper; so we may congratulate ourselves that, notwithstanding a morbid passion for witnessing dangerous performances, the Continental stricture which attributes to Englishmen a desire to kill something or see something killed is now, except amongst the lowest (or in legitimate sport where the demise of a few victims is compensated by physical advantages to their human lords), a tradition of the past.

BULL-BAITING.

Apropos of bear-baiting, a sentence o two is necessary on the cruel, kindred sport of bull-baiting. In most towns there still remains a locality designated the "Bull Ring," but, as Mr. William Kelly remarks, there is no record of any space in Leicester having borne that name. Probably, the scene of both bull and bear baitings was the present Haymarket, formerly just outside the East Gates, and to which the name of the Coal Hill still clings since the primitive times when coals were brought thither for sale in panniers on horseback. An earlier name, however, was "the Bearhill," and this seems sufficient identification, as in old records it is styled, under various orthography, "Bear hill" (afterwards corrupted into "Barwell" and "Barrell") "Crosse," from an ancient stone cross then standing in its centre. At any rate, butchers by byelaw were prohibited from killing a bull till baited, and some Mayors did not scruple to gratify their municipal subjects by providing the savage sport in front of their own doors, until Henry VIII. confined it to the "bull-ringe." It is gratifying to reflect that nothing approaching such a spectacle can be seen in England, although one may be reminded of it by a visit to a dog-fancier, who keeps a badger in a kennel to periodically cultivate the courage of his terriers.

COCK-FIGHTING.

Anyone who has seen in the Potteries, or nearer home, the fearful punishment two of the deteriorated descendants of the mediæval game-cock can inflict on each other with wing, beak, and natural spur, can imagine what the sanguinary fights must have been when the spurs were armed with steel or silver, just as Grecian pugilists were wont to wear on their fists. "knuckledusters," not lightly ringed but armed with metal as heavy as heel-plates. This may suggest what I decline to describethe brutality of a pastime once so favourably regarded by our ancestors in Leicester, and which a not far distant "residuum" will yet indulge in sub rosa, as Police Court cases occasionally prove, whenever the Rural Robert winks a slumberous eye. In the 16th and 17th centuries this brutal and demoralising pastime had here a palatial home. "The Cock-Pitt," apparently something after the general style of the late Church Congress Hall, was a large building of hexagonal form and with a domed Mr. Harris, Westcotes, has had the goodness to lend me the original coppper-plate of the admission ticket reproduced: a ticket doubtless admitting to mains specially announced as under



patronage of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood, or even of the Mayor and Corporation of Leicester. This, at any rate. is undoubted, from municipal muniments of public expenditure. that more than one Mayor encouraged aristocratic patronage at "cockinges," by entertaining such gentry out of the public purse. Two entries will show the truth of this. In 1572, the sum of 12s. 6d. was paid for three gallons of wine, four lbs. of sugar and for cakes, as a sort of luncheon for Sir George Hastings, Knight, and divers other knights and gentlemen at "the Cocke Pitt." Again, on 20th June, 1586, the sum of 18s. 6d. is paid in the same way, but the details are more complete, namely:—For four gallons of wine (10s. 8d.), four lbs. of sugar (5s.), and three dozen cakes (3s.), given to Sir George Hastings and divers other gentlemen "at the Cockinge." "Cock Fighting" is emphatically one of the obsolete public amusements of Leicester, but when I see gentlemen with fur caps and short cutties eagerly haggling over the eggs of gamefowl, and an occasional boy (as children of a larger growth of the rat-worrying fraternity transport their dogs) carrying a game-cock inside the breast of a coat buttoned at the waistwell, sometimes seeing this, I have a faint suspicion that there is a wild strain of ancestral blood still lurking in some veins in our midst, which would burst out on very slight provocation, if at present confined to secret cellars and mysterious back vards. The worst traits of the Englishman of the past survive in the rowdy Englishman of to-day; just as it is true that if you scratch a Russian underneath you will find a Tartar.

EASTER SPORTS AT THE DANES-HILL.

The youth of to-day will remember the abolition of the Easter Monday revelry at Danes-hill and on the Fosse Road, where, from time immemorial, all the folly and fun of village wakes could be enjoyed—or by some endured—in a more boisterous degree than educational—not to say religious—enlightenment would now deem decorous or even pleasurable. Most of the youth of to-day are, however, probably ignorant of the origin of those suburban sports. The scent of the hare was produced by the trailing of a dead cat over the scene of the hunt. The neigh-

bouring gentry lent their hounds for the occasion, as is attested by payments made to their huntsmen. The Mayor, accompanied by his comrades, brightly dight in glowing garments of scarlet, followed the hunt with more or less equestrian skill; while the TownWaits, in flaming gowns, discoursed music, more or less melodious, at the banquets given at the Mayor's house in the evening with the solid bills of fare which I have elsewhere placed on record. Throsby says that this custom arose from the annual maintenance of a Corporation claim to the Royalty of the Forest; which also originated another now obsolete mock hare-hunt by the Corporation over the manor of Whetstone. Fancy our present delicate and dignified Conscript Fathers condescending to ride after anything less dignified (and that in any less comfortable and elegant vehicles than velvet-cushioned carriages, cabs, and hansoms) than the ratepayers' suffrages in the various Shade of Alderman Bennett forbid the wild imagining of a possibility of the revival of such rude—if we cannot but add robust-Corporation sports at Easter-tide!

On Easter Monday, 1852, the following graphically descriptive sonnet was written by Mr. Dare, a Leicester poet, on the spot:—

Old hills, how changed your aspect! Now once where The fierce Dane crouched to seize his wily foe, Young girls with nursling infants seek the blow Of healthful breezes, and the venturous fair, With bashful boldness, from your summits dare To plunge into the hollows steep and low.

Like stars their ankles, many twinkling, show; Like wreaths of sunset-light their loosened hair. Here sturdy youths not battle seek, but sport, And tempt the sinewy leap or urge the race; And town-worn toilers, with weak step resort To breathe new life; and many a lovely face To wooers listening, throned as in Love's court Sit on your green heights, or with slow feet trace.

Many too would visit "the old tree which occupies the site of what is said to have been the retreat of Black Anna—that mysterious female, whose solitary mode of life, weird influence, and cruel practices are said to have made her in bygone times the terror of the people of Leicester."



MAY-DAY SPORTS.

Tennyson has put these words into the mouth of a rustic beauty—

Wake and call me early, call me early, mother dear; For to-morrow 'll be the merriest day of all the glad New year. Of all the glad New year the maddest merriest day, For I'm to be Queen o' the May, mother; I'm to be Queen o' the May.

And I daresay, in secluded spots, rustic beauties are still anxious to be up ere the sun has licked the sheen moisture from the grass, in the hope that, bathed in May-dew, their faces will remain beautiful for ever. There yet linger a few May-poles in village greens where lads and lasses dance and languish: and in towns and cities there are feasts of flowers and song, suburban picnics, or gay excursions ex urbe in rurem; but the robust style in which our ancestors enjoyed the first of May has entirely lapsed. Another glance at the past will help us better to understand "Modern Leicester." Though we still protest our love for "Merrie England," it is undeniable that the method of our mirth gives the "intelligent foreigner" a right to say that we take our pleasures seriously. Why, in "the good old times," the whole "merrie month of May" was occupied in popular devotion to Robin Hood and Maid Marian; and green. Lincoln or Kendall, was an appropriate colour to wear, whether one had regard to the deities or the season. English longbows twanged in friendly archery, friendly wrestlers shook terra firma with their giant struggles, and light feet twinkled (bright eves shooting Cupid's arrows the while) in the morris dance. Puritans thundered, bishops preached, kings decreed, but the hearts of the people were "merrie," and they would deck their May-poles with emerald boughs and garlands of May-bloom. and bear them aloft in musical procession to erect them in the Market-place and joyfully dance around them. The cutting of the boughs and garlands was vulgarly nicknamed thieving. and flirtation was theologically written down unchastity, but the lads and lasses of Leicester persisted in enjoying themselves "from night till morn and morn till dewy eve," year after year, and eventually broke into a riot in 1599 at the determined interference of the Mayor, James Ellice. Time can write no wrinkle, we are told, on the azure brow of the ocean, but it plays the very deuce with national manners and customs, and whoever of my readers would have liked to make one of these ineffectually recalcitrant boys and girls must e'en weep over the departure of the "good old times," or seek solace in the hope of some day lighting on some quaint village, far from engine's snort and bustling business, where lads and lasses still crown the "Queen o' the May," bedeck their Maypole and dance around it to the unscientific measures of an antiquated shoemaker or tailor, who has attained the dignity of district fiddler.

MINSTRELS, WAITS, AND ACROBATS.

The Town Waits, who are already on their pre-Christmas rounds. are survivals of a very ancient institution. They have now to depend on voluntary largess, and are as often considered a nuisance as a source of enjoyment; not so their predecessors. In olden times, the occupation of Town Waits was the nightly one of chanting the hour of the night, or warning the lieges of the occurrence of a fire. Sovereigns and noblesnotably the Earls of Leicester-had their own particular waits or minstrels, whom they dressed in gorgeous liveries and loaded with gifts for their performances on harp and hauthov. of Gaunt, indeed, formed the historic "Court of Minstrels" whose members had legal jurisdiction over the minstrels and musicians of the Honour of Tutbury, and the counties of Stafford, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, and Warwick. The Town Waits of Leicester appear to have been, like other trades. embodied into a Guild. In 1524, they were provided with liveries out of the Town funds at a cost of sixteen shillings. In 1582, a Common Hall, on 22nd February, "agreed and ordered that the xxiv (Aldermen) shall evrye of them geve xii d. a quarter, and the xlviii (Councillors) evrye of them vi d. a quarter to the Waytes for wages, and all the other inhabitants in Leicester to be taxed by the Mayor, from tyme to tyme, what they shall evrye of theym geve quartalye to the sayd Waytes forr and towards these wages." The same resolution also gave the Town Waits, as against all musical strangers, a monopoly

of performing music, for remuneration, in front of doors and windows and at "Weddyngs or Bryde howsses," in consideration of their continual and orderly morning and evening performances for the public benefit. The Town Waits consisted of six members, each with an apprentice under him, from the seventeenth century to their extinction as a Guild in 1836. their scarlet cloaks edged with silver, and silver chains supporting a cinquefoil (provided at the public expense), they were not the least prominent figures in municipal pageants and galas. The lace was afterwards of gold, and, in addition to livery, each musician received a stipend of £5 per annum. The external glory of the Town Waits has departed, but they sometimes discourse most excellent music, and if they do occasionally awake a Christian unseasonably from slumber, surely they are entitled to more ha'pence than kicks to stand piping away, as they often do, ankle deep in snow and the thermometer at zero. In addition to the entertainments elsewhere treated of, performances often supposed to have been developed in the modern Music Hall, were quite familiar to the English people. enjoyed the freaks of dancing horses, bears and monkeys. acrobats tumbled for them, and women danced on their hands. in habiliments and after a fashion which would bring a blush to the cheek of the most hardened demirep of the modern ballet. Break-neck rope dancing and adroit juggling had both their votaries, and the only difference between then and now is that music-halls are permanent local institutions, the proprietors of which supply their patrons with a continuous round of the amusements that may be popular for the period.

HORSE-RACING.

Impromptu horse-racing in England or elsewhere is, of course, as old as the period when man first conceived the idea of easing his own legs or quickening his own speed by mounting the horse; but made matches were early institutions in England, and amongst the earliest towns to patronise the "sport of kings" was Leicester. An entry in the Chamberlain's Accounts, prior to one on 23rd (mark the date!) March, 1603, is for 5s. 8d. to

pay for one gallon of sack and one pound of sugar given to the gentlemen at the horse-running. Nicholls says that generally the sport had fallen into desuetude, but that James I., at his accession on 24th (mark the date!) March, 1603, "again introduced it from Scotland, where it came into vogue from the spirit and swiftness of the Spanish horses which had been wrecked in the vessels of the Armada, and thrown ashore on the coasts of Galloway. From this period it became fashionable." Perhaps this may apply in other directions, but, from the dates pointed out, I think I am justified in maintaining that horse-racing was "fashionable" in Leicester before the border was crossed by sporting King Jamie. Perhaps his Royal smile may have given the sport an impetus, for there is a subsequent entry, the same year 1603, in the Hall-Book, of 9s. 4d. paid for one gallon of sack and two gallons of claret given to Sir Thomas Griffin, Sir Wm. Faunt and other gentlemen, at the Angel, at the horse-running. The next item which appears to have come from the public purse was in 1613, the sum of 8s. 8d. paid for a gallon of claret and a pound of sugar given to the knights and gentlemen at the horserunning for the Golden Snaffle. This entry shows the kind of first prize run for in that year. Subsequent entries are interesting enough to be given after the manner of the originals in the Hall Book:-

1674.

Pd. Mr. Bradley towards the plates to be

runn for	04.	0 0.	00
1690.			
Itm. paid to Collonell Lister's man, when			
he brought the Earl of Rutland's Plate			
to Mr. Mayor the 30th day of Septem-			•
ber which was to be run for in the Abbey			
Meadow 5s. and for two yards and a			
halfe of ribbin, to tye on the cover			
1s. 3d. by Mr. Maiors order	00.	06.	03
Itm. paid to Mr. John Pare, for wyne and			
ale upon the same occasion to treate			
Collonell Lister and sevall other Gents			
as appears by Bill	01.	14.	00
Trans y		,	

1691.

Itm. paid to Mr. Bowler towards buying the Towne Plate, that was run for in September 1691, by order of a Comon Hall 02. 00. 00

From the above it will be seen that Leicester Races came under the generous wing of the noble family of Rutland as early as 1690. For many years after 1691, the annual value of the Town Plate granted by the Corporation was £2. This, however, having dropped into abeyance, it was resolved, in 1720, that it be now "restored for this present year and established and made firm for the future to be forty shillings and no more out of the Town Stock." The heart of the Mayor of the year having been opened to subscribe 10s. towards making the 40s. £5, the Common Hall incontinently ordered every one of the 24 Aldermen to add 1s. and each of the 48 Councillors 6d. each under pain of forfeiting 5s. each to the Town Chamber; so that the Town Plate of that year considering the comparative value of money would have been worth running for. But better days still dawned in 1741, when at a Common Hall, held on 3rd July, the Chamberlains were ordered to pay £10 out of the Town Stock towards a Race Purse of £50 to be run for in that year; while a Mr. Langton, on promising to make good all damage, was allowed the use of the Town Hall for the accommodation of gentlemen and ladies attending the Races. We should not grumble at little misfortunes of wet weather, when we read in Throsby that on the Abbey Meadow "the horses sometimes ran up to their knees in water;" while, when in 1740 the course was changed to St. Mary's Field, the horses had often four times to cross turnpike roads belly-deep in mire. The same historian describes "two extraordinary memorable days of sport." The first was in the year 1745, between a horse named Rib and another named Bucephalus; the former won at three heats with much difficulty; it was remarked by the spectators that as they started each heat, so they came in; the conflict was terrible. The other was in the year 1783, between three horses out of five which started, viz.:-The Duke of Grafton's Duster, Mr. Edward's Marcus, and Mr. Naper's Gamester. Gamester won the first

heat, Duster the second, Marcus the third, and Duster the fourth. The contest was so near and doubtful, almost every heat, that violent quarrels and hard blows ensued by the spectators respecting the Steward's decision. However, the heats in general were so violently contested and so near run, that few agreed, who were near the winning post, which was the winning horse each heat. "This, however, is certain," Throsby quaintly remarks, "that the poor animals could scarcely move from the race-ground after the race."

In 1799.—for I must now content myself with singling out for notice only a year here and there-Leicester Races were run on Wednesday and Thursday, 18th and 19th September, for the Gentlemen's Purse of £50, weight for age, best of three heats, two miles to a heat: and for the Burgesses' Purse of £50, for horses that never won a Royal plate, weight for age. best of three heats, four miles to each heat. Of these the Journal remarks:-"Our Races have exhibited one of the most dripping scenes we ever remember, and we never recollect so little sport to compensate for the unpleasantness of the weather. The £50 purse of each day was decided by a single heat. On Wednesday, it was won by Lord Sackville's Magic, and on Thursday, by Lord Stamford's c. h. George." Next year, 1800. the two fixtures were for Wednesday and Thursday. 17th and 18th September, for the same amounts of prize-money; the horses being exhibited and entered at the Three Crowns on the previous Monday. The winner on the first day was Mr. Sitwell's Huntingdon, beating Lord Oxford's Victoria; and on the second day Lord Donegal's Fugleman, beating Hon. Mr. Watson's Heart of Oak and Mr. Sitwell's Cockboat. The newspaper of the week said :-- "Our Races were attended by a greater number of Noblemen and Gentlemen than has been known for several years back. The Assemblies at the New Hotel Assembly Room (which was opened for the first time) boasted an abundance of beauty and fashion, and the Theatre each evening an overflow! The races were severally well contested, and the fineness of the weather gave a general zest to the gaiety of the week." The Steward of the Course in those days was Edward Dawson, Esq. In September, 1804, the annual continuance of the Races became

a matter of doubt, in consequence of the inclosure of the Southfields. Sensible people argued against the danger that a "narrow and selfish policy may do away with this annual festival; whatever may be the objection of the moralists to these meetings. they tend to keep up a spirit of sociability and friendly intercourse both in town and county; it collects the latter to a central point, at least once a year, for the purpose of enriching and extending the claims of our Charitable institutions, and materially benefits a numerous and respectable class of individuals." wrote, with judgment and tact, the editorial scribe of the period. In the following September, the "Races were numerously and most respectably attended." On Wednesday, Lord Stamford's Gayman, and on Thursday Mr. Fisher's Two-Shoes won each the £50. After reporting the fact, the Journal proceeded to say:-"The Racecourse being to be changed next year, in consequence of the inclosure of the Southfields, we understand Major Morris has very handsomely devoted the money won by Two-Shoes towards the erection of a new stand-a subscription which will. no doubt, be liberally supported by the gentlemen of the County." The year 1806 may be said to have begun a new era of horseracing, "over a new course," namely, the Victoria Park Grounds. To the events already named were added the Belvoir Stakes of five guineas each, with twenty guineas added by His Grace the Duke of Rutland, Lord Lieutenant of the County. Lord Robert Manners was steward of the course in 1807, and the further fixture was added of a Gold Cup of 100 Guineas value, the rest in specie, 14 subscribers of 10 Guines, for one four miles heat. Very great preparations were made for ten days previously, the lodgings taken indicated an extraordinary influx of fashion and consequence, and the Grand Stand had, at considerable expense, been placed at an elevation more suitable to spectators. Expectation was fully verified. "Our races last week," says the chronicler, "concluded with an eclat highly flattering to the promoters of these annual meetings and greatly beneficial to the interests of the town at large. The amateurs of the turf will be glad to hear that at one of the best attended ordinaries the 'Crowns' ever boasted-'Success to Leicester Races' was one of the most prominent toasts-and another subscription purse of £100, for three years old, was proposed and immediately filled, in addition to those of the present year."

A passing "wrinkle" may be gleaned by Charity Organizers from the following paragraph:—"On Friday last"—(the day subsequent to the Races),—"the Rev. B. C. Bayworth, A.B., pleaded for the benefit of the Infirmary, at St. Martin's Church before an elegant and numerous auditory. The collection at the doors was made by the Duke of Rutland—Lady Fielding Lord Wentworth—Lady Elizabeth Norman; Lord Robert Manners—Mrs. Keck; J. P. Hungerford, Esq.,—Mrs. Pochin; G. A. L. Keck, Esq., M.P.; T. Babington, Esq., M.P.; G. Noel Noel, Esq., M.P.; C. W. Pochin, Esq., M.P. What wonder that such an array of beauty and fashion charmed nearly £100 into the collection plates?

Were I consulting my own pleasure, without any stint as to space, I should like to pursue this thread of inquiry into the rise and progress of Leicester Races. With the stern eye of my printer on me, my readers must pardon a hop, skip and jump of three score years and ten; my object being accomplished in throwing the maturity of our annual carnival into a clearer light and bolder relief by this glance at its infancy.

The clearest idea of the healthy maturity will be obtained from the eloquence of figures. For the past seven years, the balance in hand at 1st July in each year has been as follows:—

```
1873
           £163
                 8s. 10d.
                             1876
                                        £1,200 17s. 9d.
1874
                             1877
                                        £1,284 6s. 3d.
           £383 15s. 11d.
1875
           £484 12s.
                      2d.
                             1879
                                        £1,210 17s. 9d.
                            £893
                  1880
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The last Races, with £1,910 added money, took place on Thursday and Friday, 7th and 8th October, and subjoined is an official list of Stewards:—The Right Honorable Earl Howe, the Right Honorable the Marquis of Hartington, the Right Honorable Lord Carington, the Right Honorable the Earl of Hardwicke, the Right Honorable Lord Alington, Sir George Chetwynd, Bart., Sir John Astley, Bart., Sir Frederick Johnstone, Bart.; Captain Machell, Captain Baillie, Captain Whitmore, A. C. Barclay, Esq.; G. E. Paget, Esq.; J. Coupland, Esq.; F. Gretton, Esq.; H. E. Beddington, Esq. Judge: Mr. Clark, Newmarket. Starter: Mr. McGeorge. Handicapper: Mr. W. J. Ford, Nottingham. Stakeholders: Messrs. Pratt

and Barbrook, Conduit Street, London. Clerk of the Scales: Mr. John Pratt, London. Clerk of the Course: Mr. W. J. Ford, Nottingham. Chairman of Committee: Mr. William Gleadow, Leicester. Secretary: Mr. Thomas Sheppard, Leicester.

The amount added to the Stakes is as follows:-First day. Leicestershire Handicap, £200; Gopsal Stakes, £200; Licensed Victuallers' Hurdle Race, £150; Nursery Plate Handicap, £105; County Members' Handicap, £100; Quorn Selling Plate, £150; Billesdon Coplow Selling Plate, £150. Second Day, Melton Stakes, £150; Leicester Welter Handicap, £150; Handicap Hurdle Race, £100; Curzon Nursery Handicap Stakes, £105; Ladies' Selling Stakes, £100; Belvoir Plate, £100; County Cup Stakes, £150. One Guinea Subscribers are entitled to Tickets which admit them to the Grand Stand, Reserved Enclosure, and Saddling Paddock on both days. Half-Guinea Subscribers to the Grand Stand only on both days. the standing, influence, and energy of stewards and officials, and the improving character of the animals entered, the continued prosperity of Leicester Races is secured; while if Jupiter the rain-sender would only prove less generous in his libations the Races will remain for all time the grand season of friendly reunion and sociability for the Town and County of Leicester. The Balance Sheet for 1879 will doubtless prove of interest:-

						£3889	4	8
	Bank Interest	•••	•••	•••	• - •	16	0	5
	Entrance Fees and Forfeit	ts to t	he Fu	nd	•••	684	0	0
	Profit on Selling Races	•••	•••	••	•••	70	0	0
	Licensed Victuallers	•••	•••	•••	•••	155	18	6
	Town Subscriptions		•••	•••	•••	163	16	0
	Ground	•••		•••		479	1	0
	Proceeds of Sale Ground f	or Bo	oths ar	nd Wa	ste			
	Receipts at Grand Stand	•••			•••	974	11	0
	W. Gleadow, Esq			•••		25	0	0
	W. U. Heygate, Esq.	•••	···	•••	•••	10	0	0
	A. Pell, Esq., M.P.	•••	•••		•••	10	0	0
	S. W. Clowes, Esq	•••	•••	•••	•••	10	0	0
	The Right Hon. Lord Joh	n Ma	nners,	M.P.		10	0	0
	The Right Hon. Karl Hov	we	•••	•••		50	0	0
October.	His Grace the Duke of Ru	atland		•••	•••	20	0	0
	RECI	EIPT	3.					
July 1st.	By Balance in hand	•••	•••	•••	•••	1210	17	9
1879.						£	8.	d.
			_			_		

	PAYMENTS.						
Fn	est Day's Stakes.						
1879.		£	8.	d.	£	8.	đ.
October.	County Members' Handicap	100	0	0			
	Billesdon Coplow Selling Plate	150	0	0			
	Belvoir Plate	100	Ō	0			
	Leicestershire Handicap	200					
	Gopsal Stakes	200		_			
	Quorn Selling Plate	200	-	-			
	Nursery Plate Handicap	100	-	-			
	Licensed Victuallers' Hurdle	100	-	-	•		
SEC	OND DAYS' STAKES.		٠	٠			
	County Cup Stakes	150	0	0			
	Curzon Nursery Handicap	100	_	0			
	T of corton Walter TT Jin.	150		0			
	Molton Staless	150	-	-			
	Ladica' Gallina Gtales	100	-	0			
	TT 1! TT 1!-	100	0	0			
	Handicap Hurdle	100	"		1900	٥	Λ
	Corporation for Rent of Race				1000	٠	v
	Course, 1879				75	0	0
	Messrs. Richards & Son for New				•	-	-
	Iron Fence round Grand Stand						
	and Saddling Paddock				205	0	0
Ex	PENSES.					Ī	•
	Cost of Platform, Jockeys', Weigh-			,			
	ing, and Reporters' Booths, Posts						
	and Rails, &c	120	19	11			
	Collectors' Commissions, Clerks,						
•	Assistants, Bill Posting, Paint-						
	ing, Architect, Gate Men, Rent						
·	and Rates of Store House and						
	Yard, Hotel Account, &c	154	15	0			
	Police, Special Constables, and	101	10	U			
	Extra Assistance	58	17	6			
	Labourers and Ground Men, Goss,	00	-1	U			
	Hurdles, Tan, Mowing, Straw,						
	&c	109	7	4			
	Clerk of the Course, Judge, Starter,	103	•	*			
	Handicapper, Clerk of the Scales.						
	Secretary, Salaries and Expenses	235	1	Ö			
	Messrs. Weatherby's and other	200	_	U			
	London Accounts for Adver-						
	41.1	01	0				
	Printing, Local Advertising, Sta-	61	Z	6			
		77 P		_			
	tionery, &c	75	17	5	816	0	8
1880.				_	010	v	0
July 1st.	Balance in hand	•••			893	4	0
							_
,					£3889	4	8

MODERN THEATRES, OPERA HOUSES, AND MUSIC HALLS.

THE OLD PLAYHOUSE; NEW THEATRE; ASSEMBLY ROOMS; VAUX-HALL GARDENS, &c.

Dramatic entrepreneurs have not only, since the days of old. ceased to be subsidised by the Corporation, but have become contributors to the Municipal Exchequer, and are also excluded from Churches, from Guild Halls, and from passing Inns. and strictly relegated to legally licensed buildings, of which they are either proprietors or lessees. The first theatre in Leicester, known as the Old Playhouse, was swept away when the East Gates obstruction was demolished and the Clock Tower erected at the east end of the site, of which more elsewhere. The builder was Mr. John Bass, who was permitted by the Corporation, on the 9th February, 1753, to erect four or more columns on the ground, in consideration of an annual rent of one shilling; and on these columns were erected a portion of the floor of the Old Assembly Room and a portion of the stage of the Old Play House. According to Mr. William Gardiner, the genial author of "Music and Friends," the room was "fitted up with boxes, pit, and gallery. Our townsman, Chamberlain, a basket-maker, occasionally convened a company of comedians at Leicester. He was an amateur actor as well as manager, and, as a patron of art, invited young aspirants to the stage to make their debut in Leicester." Here Mrs. Siddons, afterwards of world-wide renown, appeared with her husband in 1778, before her foot had scarcely touched the first rung of the ladder of fame. Underneath the stage, until the demolition of the building, was a weighing machine for hay, coal, &c. Teste the late Mr. Benjamin Storer Chamberlain, a clown performed, to his intense astonishment, though little to his physical detriment, an extraordinary feat not included in his part. A pantomime was running, and during a day performance the clown had to take a high leap backwards towards the back of the stage. Exceeding the needed impetus, he took flight through a window and alighted on a waggon load of hay some distance out in the street. Our plucky local lessee, Mr. Frank Emery, who reappeared and played out his part in a Manchester pantomime, after breaking his collarbone, would probably, at the time, have preferred as soft a fall, although in his case a hard fall was the signal for a swift and continuous rise. May his star be long in the ascendant! But, hold hard, my Pegasus! Thou art outrunning the constable, for we are still more than 100 years historically in the rear of this expiring year of grace.

It is impossible for me to do more than give a few specimens, from papers of the period, of the ordinary sort of dramatic entertainment provided within the "Old Playhouse." On Thursday, March 7, 1793, there was presented "the new comedy of the Rivals and the farce of Cross Purposes." both "by desire of the Leicester Hunt;" and, on Wednesday, the 13th, the "School for Scandal" and the same farce "by desire of the officers of the Oxford Blues," no doubt then quartered in the town. these dates, presumably for the gratification of the "gods," a Mr. Pero announced the "comedy of the Busybody," "a comic song by Mr. Dunn," and "the grand serious pantomime of Don Juan; or the Libertine Destroyed." In the following week, Mr. and Mrs. Inchbald were announced to take the parts of "Mr. and Mrs. Hardcastle" in "She Stoops to Conquer." Towards the end of April, Mr. Pero allowed Mr. Chamberlain a benefit. when the performance consisted of the "comedy (never performed here) called Fashionable Levities; or the World as it Goes," followed by the three-act comedy of "Next Door Neighbours." The beneficiary himself appeared in "a humorous description of the improvements of Leicester, in character of a rider, in a song written by the late Mr. Charles Rozzell.' May, on the first evening of the fair, play-goers were treated to "the Merchant of Venice" and the new farce of "Merry Mourners."

Though not applicable to the Theatre but to a temporary erection in Vauxhall Gardens, it may be well here to say that our great-grandfathers were equally privileged with ourselves in the occassional advent of a circus. Messrs. Jones and Humphreys, "of the Circus Royal, Edinburgh and Newcastle," advertised on 25th October, 1793, astounding horsemanship by Mr. Pearson, "the Young Mercury." Mr. Humphreys displayed on horseback, with the steed at full speed, "curious de-

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ceptions on cards," as well as performing on two horses; while Mr. Smallcombe did the comic business "on the single horse."

A Mr. Stretton appeared at the Assembly Rooms on Monday, 24th February, 1794, in what was called a "Rendezvous of Mirth," "sanctioned by several gentlemen of the greatest respectability," who are nameless.. The name of the author, Charles Dibdin, was, however, sufficient guarantee of the harmlessness of the songs. The programme is curious:—

Part I.—Soldier Dick, Moggy, Jack at the Windlass, a Welsh Love Song, the Token, and No Good without an Exception.

Part II.—The Quietus, the Whistling Ploughman, Tom Tackle, the Waggoner, Father and Mother and Suke.

Part III.—Peggy Perkins, the Blind Sailor, Neighbour Sly, the Watchman, Beauty's Donation or British Bounty, and the Finale. The price of admission to the room was 2s. and the gallery 1s., at which latter figure the "gods" would now growl charmingly.

En passant, according to advertisement, "Mr. O'Brien, the celebrated Irish giant, who measures near nine feet high, the most surprising man in the known world, will continue to be seen at the Lion and Dolphin, in this town, this week, and at Market Harboro' the next." This was in the second and third week of October, 1794.

Mr. Benyon is the next caterer in theatrical matters, who appeals for the support of the nobility, gentry, and public, promising to produce at the theatre "the novelty of fashionable pieces and performers." In his bill of fare were to be found "The Country Girl," "The Spoil'd Child," "The Road to Ruin," "Everyone has his Fault," "As You Like It," "The Romp; or a Cure for the Spleen," King Charles I.; or the Royal Martyr," and the musical farce of "The Agreeable Surprize." Mr. Benyon enjoyed the patronage of Captain Heyrick's troop of Yeomanry and the officers of the Loyal Leicester Volunteer Infantry. He also, by desire of Miss Linwood, gave Friday evening, December 12, 1794, for the benefit of the Infirmary and Asylum, when the comedy of "She Would and She Would Not," and the farce of "The Irish Widow" were played. The proceeds amounted to the handsome sum of £35. In January, 1795,

Mr. Benyon announced the engagement of Mr. Stretton, a horn-pipe and comic song by whom are advertised as special attractions. The last week of this season was the first week in March, when, for the first time, the names of the whole company are advertised, viz.:—Messrs. Darlington, Bristow, Waylett, Smith, Chamberlain, Richardson, Swindall, Maxwell, Saunders, Baker, and Marks; Mesdames Swindall and Benyon.

At this time, Subscription Concerts were given by the Leicester Musical Society in the Town Hall. The Stewards of the Society were Rev. T. Burnaby and Messrs. R. Coleman and H. Carrick, and afterwards Mr. T. B. Buxton; and on the programme were such classic compositions as those of Handel, Borghi, Bond, Elchner, Geminiani, and Arne. There were also periodical "Subscription Assemblies," the Stewards of the time being Edwin Andrew Burnaby, Esq., and Mr. Charles Meredith.

In November, 1795, the Theatre was re-opened, when the leading gentlemen were Mr. Palmer, junior, from the Haymarket, and Mr. Hamilton, the lessee, and the leading lady Miss Catherine Hamilton; and singing between the Acts was introduced by Miss Valentine, a debutante, and Mr. Gill. Sir W. Skeffington gave his patronage at Mr. Hamilton's benefit on Friday, 22nd January, 1796, when the "Merchant of Venice" was followed by the "Comic Opera of the Poor Soldier." In connection with various benefits that followed, such pieces were rendered as "Cymbeline, King of Britain," "The Recruiting Sergeant," "The Sultan, or a Peep into the Seraglio," "Peeping Tom of Coventry," &c. Amongst the company were such fresh names as Standevans, Wallaker, and Sinnett.

The Winter Season of 1797 (when the Theatre was for the first time styled Royal, and announced as "licensed pursuant to Act of Parliament,") opened, under the lesseeship of Mr. Chamberlain, and patronage of the Leicester Yeomanry, with an appropriate patriotic prologue written for the occasion, the burden of which was "God Save the King and Rule Britannia." The representations consisted successively of "Hamlet, The Rivals, The Irishman in London, A Cure for the Heartache, Wives as they Were, &c." Lady Hudson also gave her patronage, and so did the Committee for Voluntary Contributions for National Defence, who received the proceeds of one night's entertainment. The Company consisted of Messrs. Richards, Gill, Spencer, Stanley, Lebrun, Kelly, Patterson, Adamson, and Bristow; Misses Errington, M. Errington, Birchall, and Mrs. Carlton.

One Signor Sampieri, in September, 1798, by permission of the Mayor, in the Exchange, gave what was probably a very novel musical entertainment. The piece was entitled "Night," and a certain amount of realism was thrown over the transition from evening to midnight and morning by suitable planetary transparencies. There followed imitations of the four seasons and of a sea-storm, "with the grand and awful effect" of a thunderstorm and the judgment of Pluto. If half the advertised sensation was produced, some modern music-hall caterers migh profitably seek a spiritualistic seance with Signor Sampieri.

On April 16th, 1799, the subscribers to the new Assembly Rooms were invited to pay the third call of 20 per cent. on their subscriptions; and also to meet "at Mr. Johnson's, in the Market Place," "to consider the propriety of erecting a theatre, in addition to the present building, and to form a part of the general plan." The proposed addition was resolved on.

It may be worth while noting here that a rage for private theatricals, like the varying styles of ladies' dress, is only a revival and not a new evolution. In August, 1799, E. W. Hartopp, Esq., of Dalby Hall, kept his private theatre open for a week, distributing tickets gratis, and preparing cold collations of every rarity for the audiences, which were sometimes composed of nobility and gentry and sometimes of tradesmen and farmers. Between the acts the Melton Band, according to the chronicler, played with "judgment and masterly stile." Mr. Hartopp and his son performed, assisted by professionals from the Melton and Stamford theatres.

On Monday, 17th March, 1800, the New Theatre—which, along with what are still the Judges' Lodgings, had been erected by the subscribers to the New Assembly Rooms—was opened for "business." In previously announcing the fact, the manager said:—"Mr. Watson prides himself much in opening, for the better accommodation of the town and neighbourhood as hand-

some and compleat a house, for its size, as the kingdom While indulged in the pleasing task of conducting it, no effort shall ever be wanting on his part toward deserving and showing due gratitude for the honour conferred, being unremittingly assiduous to present the amusements of the Drama, in a style worthy the attention of a liberal audience; and hoping it will be deemed seasonable, he begs permission to join his humble endeavours to the present very laudable exertions for the Relief of the Poor, dedicating the produce of this first night, in aid of a General subscription now making in Leicester." "An occasional prologue written by a young lady of Leicester, was spoken by Mr. Richards," and the entertainment consisted of Colman's New Comedy, the "Heir at Law," and for an after-piece, "The Purse." The Company engaged was described as "Their Majesties' Servants from the Theatre Royal, Cheltenham." I have thus far referred at length to the Theatre, because the period included is almost a forgotten era in "Modern Leicester," and I must be permitted to become more and more brief the more nearly I approach to the dramatic recollections of people still alive.

The father of Macready the Great was for many years the caterer and under his managerial wand such "stars"—from out a richly constellated dramatic firmament—arose on this little stage as Edmund Kean, the elder Matthews, Liston, and others. Perhaps the younger Macready here made his debut. For six and thirty years this was the home of the drama in Leicester, until on part of its site arose the present

THEATRE ROYAL.

The twelfth day of September, 1836, witnessed the opening of this Grecian abode of sock and buskin, not unworthy of Euripides, with a prologue pronounced by Miss Sarah Booth, who was very popular with the theatre-goers of those days. After eleven years of up-hill work financially, although of good work from a dramatic point of view, the proprietors, in 1874, came to a resolution to dispose of their interest in the premises, subject to the conditions on which they purchased the same, for the moderate sum of £3,500. It was deemed advisable, with the view of securing this object, to form a new company in 160 shares

of £25 each. Each subscriber for two £25 shares was offered the inducement of life-admission to all theatrical performances at the Royal, except on occasional lettings. These admission tickets were not transferable, and only disposable along with the original shares upon which they were granted. Shareholders were also carefully reminded that the tenure of stock of the value of £50 would entitle them to vote for members of Parliament in elections for South Leicestershire. I subjoin an interesting list, copied from the document bearing the autographs of the first

PROPRIETORS.

		SHARES.			SHARES
Samuel Berridge		4	William Hawes		2
Samuel Stephens Ban	kart	4	William Welton	•••	4
John Nedham		4	Thomas H. Wheeler	•••	2
George Shaw, M.D.		4	Robert Crawford		2
William Parsons		4	Stephen Chapman	•••	2
Thomas Moxon	•••	2	Robert Scott		2
William King	•••	2	Matthew Townsend	•••	2
John Gill	•••	2	Thomas Hopkins		2
William Burley, Junr	•	2	John Jarvis	•••	2
William Hardy (Hotel	-st.)	2	J. T. Raworth	•••	2
W. A. Eaglesfield	•••	2	Mary King		2
Samuel Smith Harris	•••	2	William Windram		2
John F. Stenson	•••	2	Robert Stringer	•••	2
Matthew Clarkson	•••	2	Joseph Whitmore		2
William Coltman		2	William Berridge	•••	2
Richard Cain		2	Joseph Miles		2
Henry Paget		4	Samuel Elson		2
James Cooke		2	W. and J, Biggs		4
James Jacques		2	Colin Macaulay	•••	4
William Agar		2	T. Farmer Cooke		2
George Watts		2	Isaac Townsend		2
Joseph Fielding	•••	2	William Ward		2
Thomas Wood	•••	2			

The composition of the above will afford food for not a little surprising and more or less pleasant speculation on the part of careful students of nature and human nature. It is not within the scope of my present purpose to publish the list of present shareholders, at least not until it becomes historical.

A meeting of the proposed Shareholders, in the Theatre Royal, was held at the Theatre, 30th March, 1847, Mr. James Jacques, in the Chair. The terms for the purchase of the Theatre were agreed to. The following appointments were made:—

TRUSTEES.

Mr. William Burley

Mr. S. S. Harris.

Mr. S. S. Bankart.

COMMITTEE (for the ensuing year).

Mr. W. Parsons.
Mr. S. Berridge.
Mr. Joseph Whitmore.
Mr. John Gill.

Mr. William Biggs. Mr. Thomas Mexon. Mr. James Jacques.

Mr. William Windram.

Mr. Thomas Hepkins.

TREASURER.
Mr. S. S. Bankart.

HONORARY SECRETARY. Mr. James Cooke.

The following resolution was also agreed to:—That a call of £5 on each £25 Share, be paid into the Leicestershire Banking Company's Bank, on account of the Treasurer, on or before the 10th day of April next.

In connection with the above, I have pleasure in noting that an esteemed brother K.T. (Knight of the Thimble), the late Mr. Thomas Moxon, High Street, was instrumental in saving, for the people, the then only public place for the representation of the Drama in Leicester, by purchasing the property under the Auctioneer's hammer and organizing the New Company. In acknowledgment of these services, he was presented with a massive Silver Tankard, bearing the following inscription:—

Presented
to Mr. Moxon,
with the best
thanks and remembrances
of the late Purchasers
of the Theatre Royal,
Leicester.
February 15th, 1848.

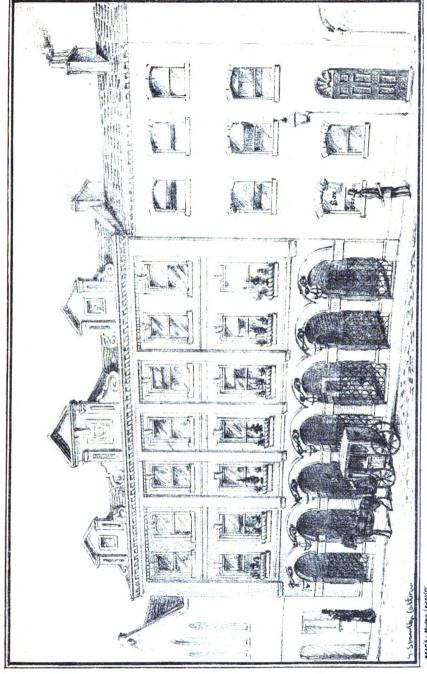
I am indebted to Mr. T. C. Browne for the names of the various lessees u er the New Company and the periods of their leases:—

Mr.	Charles Gill	•••	•••	•••	18485 3
,,	J. S. Harris	•••	•••	•••	1854
,,	Blanchard	•••	•••	•••	1855
,,	W. Sidney		•••	•••	1856
,,	Thomas Clifford	•••	•••	•••	1857
,,	George Owen	•••	•••	•••	1858
••	John Townsend	•••			1859
,,	Henry Powell		•••		1860-62
,,	George Owen	•••	•••	•••	186 3 —68
,,	John Windley	•••	•••		186972
••	(Closed for Alterations)		•••	1873
••	Elliot Galer	•••			187477
"	E. Clinton Hall	•••			1877—79
"	Frank Emery	•••			1880
,,					

The last-named gentleman has infused taste, energy, and public spirit into his management, and I sincerely wish him (who is a townsman, though he has won his catering spurs at Liverpool) what he deserves-better luck in lucre than many of his gamesome but scarcely fortunate predecessors. The establishment is conducted with a decorum that the most extreme purist could scarcely take exception to, and I rather imagine the pantomime. Mr. Emery will introduce as these pages see the light, will take some beating. Amongst the great actors who have made their "exits and entrances" on the boards of the Royal may be mentioned: -W. C. Macready, G. V. Brooks, Macarthy (Irish comedian); Charles Kean, Ellen Tree, Phelps, Charles Mathews, Frank Matthews, J. B. Buckstone, G. J. Vining, J. L. Toole, John Vandenhoff, Ira Aldridge, Thomas Swinbourne, Miss Helen Faucit, Mrs. Herrmann Vezin (then Mrs. Charles Young); Miss Vandenhoff, Miss Goddard, Miss Ada Cavendish, Miss Florence Terry. Miss Wallis, Miss Genevieve Ward, Barry Sullivan, Henry Irving, Charles Dillon, Mdlle. Beatrice, James Bennett, Miss Heath, John Ryder, The Billingtons, Miss Nelly Farren, Chas. Ashford, Kate Vaughan, Chas. Calvert, and Kate Lawler.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.

The Palace of Drama and Opera built by Mr. T. T. Paget in Silver Street, of which Mr. Elliot Galer is the lessee and manager,



is altogether metropolitan in its proportions and appointments, with the capacity of being turned into a magnificent amphitheatre. Indeed, except on the advent of a specially distinguished artist or company, the Opera House is rather beyond the immediate requirements of Leicester. That, however, is a fault in the right direction, and in a few years will prove no defect but an advantage, if in every decade we should continue to add tens of thousands to our population. There is fine scope on the spacious stage for spectacular art, and the public have much to thank Mr. Galer for in this direction, especially at merry Christmas-tide. Not the least of the treats, which have been the frequent fruits of his catering, are such operatic delights as the performances of the Carl Rosa Company. If not cosy, the Opera House is elegant and comfortable, and in the matter of Refreshment-rooms and lounges, the necessities of patrons have been carefully considered. Altogether, this establishment is a credit to the proprietor, to the lessee and to Leicester. and yet more critical audiences than assemble here, it would be hard to find.

MUSIC AT THE "RAINBOW AND DOVE."

About thirty years since, the first Music-room was established in Leicester. The main object of its promoter was the cultivation of Classical Music, such as glees from the old composers, part songs, madrigals, and other compositions calcu-The room was open to all the world, lated to elevate the mind. and its fame was wide. The Rainbow and Dove stood out in bold relief as a nursery for music and some of our most successful men there commenced their musical career. The then host, Mr. Cleaver, has spent a life time in promoting the advancement of others, especially in musical circles, and the conduct of the house gained him the respect of all classes of society who from time to time assembled under his roof. Many musical people of the past, met almost nightly-Richard and George Toone, Edmond Taylor Jackson, and Jones, the Leicester poet. Music too with the last-named was the twin sister of poetry. Here also in those early days were to be found the Stanhopes, the Barkers, Rivitt,

—who was clerk of Aylestone. Sometimes, in a fair-sized parlour, they would all be musical men, and Northampton Square, on a summer's night, would reverberate again and again with beautiful strains poured out in the intervals of pipe and glass. Later on, when the large room was inaugurated, and Mr. Cleaver extended his enterprise, rashly as some people thought, there are the names of Sansome, Thorpe, Briggs, J. O. Christian, Bunney, Warren, Harrison, and the late Sexton Abraham Martin; these, with the blind pianist, Cyrus Gamble, made a lasting impression upon all who visited the first and certainly the most celebrated of all rooms, for classical music, established in the town and neighbourhood of Leicester.

PAUL'S CONCERT HALL OF VARIETIES.

Mr. William Paul — known in friendly circles as the "Apostle" — commenced his popular place of entertainment some 17 years ago. The initial stage was a "day of small things," but the establishment has since advanced most wonderfully, both for the financial advantage of the proprietor and in public opinion. All the Music Hall notabilities of the day now come to the enlarged hall in periodical and mutually profitable succession. Whoever cares for Leybourne or Macdermott, Roberts or Wingett, Hanson or Torr, can here listen to them at their best; while lady "stars" of every magnitude flash their lights, regardless of expense.

Mr. Paul has also the credit of inaugurating a coffee still of most admirable type, by means of which teetotallers, or others in the intervals of other potions, may indulge in drinks that would quite meet the views of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. The management is strict and, guarded by specially uniformed policemen, Paul's Hall is one that need not be ignored, as a place of amusement, by the most fastidious. It is infinitely to his credit that he gives Wallett the Queen's Jester an annual benefit, and entertains annually 100 poor old people to a free and sumptuous Christmas supper.

RUTLAND RINK.

This, by no means insignificant, place of amusement in Rutland Street is - to use a Yankee term - "run" by the Leicester and Nottingham Skating Rink Company Limited. This company owns the Marble and Alexandra Rinks in the Metropolis of Lace, but the financial backbone of the concern is the Rutland Rink, in the Metropolis of Leather. It was opened at Christmas, 1877, is 150 by 50 feet in dimensions. and, with one of the best Val de Travers floors in broad England, was the first local establishment to obtain a concession for the monopoly of Plympton's roller skates, whereby the graceful pastime of skating can be fully enjoyed in spite of the eccentricities of Jack Frost. Here the perfection of outside and inside edge and spread-eagling is indulged in "all the year round" and the scene is not least amusing to spectators when those who disport are "greenhorns" who "catch crabs." Besides the ordinary bill of fare special entertainment-in the shape of vocal music, acrobacy, performing dogs, marksmanship, &c., &c.,—is provided upon occasion; while at Christmas, Whitsuntide, Eastertide, on the various Bank holidays and during the Race Bal Masques and Fancy Balls may be taken part in by any who have a penchant for an unusual description of recreation without descending to compromise their social status. This, indeed, is the great recommendation of the "Rutland," that under the secretaryship of Mr. Ravenscroft and the judicious managerial superintendence of Mr. Buchanan, the most select company and the most perfect decorum are sedulously maintained. The hall is decorated in 24 panels by landscape paintings, powerfully delineated by Mr. Greaves, a clever local artist; and an exceptionally talented band, under the leadership of Mr. Kilby, throws over the whole the softening influence of the soul of music.

"SUBSCRIPTION" AND "INVITATION" CONCERTS.

Leicester owes to Mr. Harry Nicholson a heavy debt for the concerts of first-class music which he organises; and, I am sorry to say, so unprofitably to himself. This is the greatest grudge I have against my native town that the finest "subscription" concerts have a comparatively cold shoulder turned on them, while no expense is spared in personal decorations to enable the decorators to put in what they deem a suitable appearance at gratuitous "invitation" concerts This is a fault that can and must be remedied.

LEICESTER ELECTIONS—OLD AND NEW,

PARLIAMENTARY CONTEST OF 1826.

HAVE been placed in possession of the fugitive literature of this Parliamentary election, remarkable for its virulence and violence. Through this means, I shall be able to throw otherwise inaccessible light on the mode in which elections were conducted prior to the Reform Bill of 1832, and to give some idea of the manner in which "close" Corporations used their position and influence in favour of their own nominees and against the popular candidates. In view of an approaching Dissolution of Parliament, the Members for Leicester, Messrs. Thomas Pares and John Mansfield, on 3rd May, 1826, intimated that it was not their intention to seek An anonymous placard, on the following day, re-election. invited the "worthy and independent electors" to reserve the promise of their votes, as Charles Godfrey Mundy, Esq., of Burton-on-the-Wolds, had signified his intention of coming forward in the "True Blue Interest;" and on the same day, Robert Otway Cave, Esq., issued an address, claiming support as one determined to be "unpledged to any party, unshackled by any conditions," but professing adherence to the policy of Mr. Canning, particularly as favouring the repeal of the Corn "An Elector" at once launched a burning "squib" at Mr. Mundy, as a representative of the "Starving Interest," misnamed the "True Blue Interest," the "Supporters of Pensioners, Placemen, in short, all who advocate those principles which have brought your once happy Country to the

lowest state of degradation and misery." "An Elector" also thundered against the Corporation, and, fierily addressing the Freemen, said:—"Are these men entitled to your support who, uniformly ambitious, bestow that self-same Freedom upon hundreds which yourselves and your forefathers have earned by the sweat of their brow? Can you not divine their purpose? It is to convert your popular Borough into a close one—such an one that they can deposit within the walls of the Town Hall—there to be disposed of to the best bidder. As for those men who have sacrificed their honour, in bartering their independence for such a boon, they claim not the censure but the pity of mankind. Oh, that my country has sons that blush not at such deeds! But to you Electors—let me exhort you to return the representative of the people, and not the limited advocate of aristocratic power. Finally, let the watchword be"'PLENTY AND No CORN LAWS." Whetheror not this printed missile scared Mr. Mundy, he at all events, though "highly flattered," declined the Corporation's good intentions for his Parliamentary promotion. Two days later, 8th May, a feuilleton. evidently from another hand, but also signed "An Elector." insisted that Mr. Otway Cave had a great stake in the County. and was "honourable, high-minded, independent and a man of talent," and, of course, just the very "man for Galway." Furthermore, as Mr. Cave was supposed to be weak-kneed in his opposition to "Catholic Emancipation," the writer argued that he was "in principle and in practice a zealous Protestant," and prepared to "maintain, at any risk, of either person or property. the Protestant Ascendancy." As will be seen hereafter, "An Elector's" plausible argument proved far from convincing to the "purple" party. At this point, Mr. William Evans, the cotton-lord of Darley Mills (then Member for Retford), issued a preliminary address, begging the "worthy and independent electors of the Borough of Leicester" not to allow a few days' absence on necessary Parliamentary duty, "to operate unfavourably to his prospects;" while Mr. Cave, on the 12th, and Mr. Evans, on the 13th May, issued handbills deferring their canvass in deference to "respectable" opinion, which had come to the conclusion that political excitement would interrupt the practical business of the Fair. Shrewd people our ancestors must have

been, with an unclouded eye to the main chance. On the 16th of May. Mr. Evans, from the "Bell Inn," and Mr. Cave, from the "Three Crowns," placarded their gratification at the success of their first day's separate canvass. "A Friend of Liberty" was not satisfied to lose the services of Mr. John Mansfield. "Fellow townsmen," he cried, "awake from your lethargy! Is not our present representative, John Mansfield, Esq., a truly honest and independent man? Has he not manifested his abhorrence of the odious Corn Laws? Is he not a staunch advocate for the freedom of the enslaved African, and a friend to our invaluable Constitution in its purest department? If you thus esteem him, rally round his standard-appoint a meeting-solicit and support the man of your choice, and a trivial expense will ensure him as your future Representative." This urgent appeal died still-born. Once more an elector rushes into print to point out the terrible result which would ensue from returning a Member in favour—as Mr. Evans was—of Catholic Emancipation. The conclusion of "An Elector's" hand-bill reads strangely inflammatory in these more enlightened days. "Can you," the writer almost shrieks, "give him your suffrages as a Member of Parliament for the Borough of Leicester? Can you vote for a man who will lend his assistance towards establishing a religion, the only object of which is to make you slaves in the hands of the Pope and a persecuting Priesthood, to subject you to all the horrors of a blood-thirsty Inquisition, and in bringing you under the dominion of the Church of Rome, to take from you all Freedom and all Liberty of Conscience, and to deliver you up once more to FIRE, FAGGOT AND PERSECUTION!!!" The capital letters and triple notes of exclamation are not mine, but "An Elector's." Mr. Evans sticks to his guns with admirable courage, in the following rejoinder, dated 17th May, 1826: -"On the important question of the Corn Laws, and on the necessity of economy in the Public Expenditure, I am happy to concur in opinion with the entire body of the Electors; and if some individuals hold sentiments differing from my own on the Catholic question, I beg of them not to believe the charges so falsely made, that my view of it arises from any indifference to the Protestant Religion. I would not support the Catholic Claims, if I thought that the concession of them, with due safeguards and limitations, would endanger, in any degree, the Protestant Religion; but I hold the opinions of many of our most eminent statesmen past and present—Pitt and Fox, and Burke and Windham, and Canning, and Robinson, and Huskisson, and Lord Harrowby-that no real danger to our Protestant interests can attend the grant: and that the measure is necessary for the welfare of Ireland, and the safety of the Empire. I trust that you will not allow this question to be turned into a party cry for election purposes by men whose opposition to me rests mainly on other grounds." To Mr. Evans' rescue comes "A Protestant, but no Bigot," who "pitches hot" into the "Fire and Faggot Party." "Electors! Do not be frightened by any such bugbear! The spirit of Intolerance has existed in all ages, and would still exist, did not the improvement of the present age and the influence of the public press keep it down. What was it. let me ask you, but a spirit of Intolerance that led to the memorable doings at Birmingham, a few years ago, when the houses of the most worthy and respectable inhabitants were burnt to the ground? Were these disgraceful acts committed by Catholics? No, Electors, by a High-Church-and-King-mob, led on by the bigots and zealots, always to be found in Religious Establishments, whether Protestant or Catholic." "A Protestant but no Bigot," wound up with the insinuation that this "No Popery" cry was but one resort of a "crest-fallen and disappointed Junto," which had gone the length of offering to secure two True Blue candidates for the sum of Ten Thousand Pounds?" Per Contra, "A Freemen" adjured the electors to "repel the man who would not advocate their cause against the enemies of Religion." "If," wrote this fresh "squib"manufacturer, you value your religion and the blessings of freedom, act like men-DO YOUR DUTY, and our sanctuaries will still remain unpolluted with Popish bigotry-bloodshed and intolerance!" On this subject, Mr. Cave, who had been hitherto rather non-committal, was to be "probed" to the "quick," and the effect of this process will in due course make itself apparent. Once and again, a calm voice is heard, like that of "An Elector," who inquires what harm could be done by 5 to 10 Catholic amongst 300 Protestant Peers, or 30 Catholic amongst 600 Protestant Commoners; and who reasons that "surely dangers of this kind, connected, as they are, with

the discontent kept up in the minds of Irish Catholics by the present disabilities, should lead any rational man to look at this side also of the Catholic question; and instead of joining a cry, or giving himself up to ancient prejudices, to adopt that course respecting it, which the substantial welfare, and even safety, of the Empire, appear to demand." But immediately "An Independent Elector" hastened to strike in:-"You will find their (two of the candidates') several claims are advocated by one, Thomas, who is not an Apostle! by a Matthew, who is no Saint! by the Editor of the 'Journal.' who is not a Prophet! by a writer in the 'Chronicle,' who is no Conjuror! and lastly, by 'An Elector' from Infirmary Square, where many tried 'Friends of Freedom' have paid the forfeit of their lives to the offended laws of the Country! Will you, then, send to Parliament any man so recommended. who, by supporting the Roman Catholic claims, will betray one of your dearest and most sacred privileges as Protestants and as Christians; and leave to your children the due legacy of Fire and Faggot? No! May Heaven and your own Consciences forbid such a sacrifice of principle—such dereliction of duty!" The two candidates were good enough to keep up the spirits of their friends, by gratifying bulletins on the health of the canvass. Anti-Papists kept pegging away with intimations that a Priest could pardon Perjury for a fee of 9s., and Murder for a solatium of 10s. 6d.; while "An Elector" would assure his brethren that "Mr. Evans abhored Catholic Supremacy." and subscribed to "a Society for promoting a knowledge of Protestant principles among Catholics "-surely a sufficient answer to the "exploded cry of Fire and Faggot," a substitute for which was suggested in the cry of "No Corn Laws and Evans for ever!" To overlap this, "a squib," dated March 19, 1826, announced that the Pope had appointed "a Radical little Hosier, opposite the Bell Hotel, his sole agent for the Sale of Pardons for sins already committed, or Indulgences for sins contemplated, at the following ridiculously low rates:-

	£	s.	d.	
For Sacrilege	 0	10	6	
" Taking a False oath	 0	9	0	
"Robbing	 0	12	0	
" Burning a Neighbour's House	 0	12	0	
" Murdering a layman	 0	7	6	
,, Laying violent hands on a clergyman	 0	10	6	

A similar appointment, it was added, had been forwarded to but declined by a Druggist and Blue-Sauce merchant, near the Assembly Rooms, "his political friends having now disclaimed the Pope." How is this for a rousing appeal?

"ELECTORS

of Leicester!

Awake! Arise! Or be for ever Fallen!

Your Corporation

Have at length Sold you to Sir Charles Hastings!

The Tory Baroner is to be drawn by Pensioners of the Corporation, in Mock Triumph up the Northgate Street

THIS MORNING!

Attend at your Posts

and tell the Tory as he enters, your real sentiments; let him see what principles must triumph, and send him back to Willesley Park. Shew that *Real Freemen* are not to be overcome by *Honorary Freemen*, nor trust the *Tool* of the Party that has brought you to your present distress.

Saturday Morning.

A FREEMAN BY BIRTH."

Simultaneously, Mr. Evans announced the "triumphant progress of his canvass" which encouraged him to "look forward with sanguine hope to the Day of Election;" though "An Independent Elector" solemnly affirmed that "the all-important subject of our religious rights" never could "for a moment be trusted to any man (Mr. Evans) who openly professes to favour the views of those whom our Constitution has properly precluded from participating in its counsels!" On this side the watchword

now was:-"Sir Charles Abney Hastings, Bart. And the True Blue Interest For Ever!!!" By the other side the Baronet was hailed as "the Tool of the Corporation who made his public entry" amidst the "mingled groans and execrations" of the people, who were asked to remember that his supporters were "the constant applauders of Sidmouth and Castlereagh," the "sworn enemies to all Reform, and strenuous opposers of every project calculated to lighten" the burden of taxation. The electors were also reminded that the Corporation—the Baronet's "Masters and Keepers"—wasted the Charities in "feasting and revelling, and claimed the right of imposing upon them an annual tax to an enormous amount in the shape of a Borough Rate! and who with consummate audacity refused to inform them as to the mode of its expenditure, lest, forsooth! they should compromise their dignity!" Sir Charles Abney-Hastings' address, at all events, gave no uncertain sound. "sound" on the Catholic question from the Corroration point of view, that is to say, "decidedly opposed to what is called Catholic Emancipation;" and as to the Corn Laws, he had "ever considered that they have neither been beneficial to the Agricultural nor to the Commercial interests." In fine, his high-flown motto was "The Throne, the People and the Altar." The Baronet's prospects induced his friends to twit Mr. Evans by publishing

"A Card.

Mr. Save-all, under the present emergency of affairs, begs leave to offer to the "deluded Advocates" of certain unpopular opinions, his inimitably convenient

FLY BY NIGHT.

To keep up appearances, it will be ready at the Bell Inn, every evening after dusk!

Inside to Derby, only five shillings during the full of the moon—and seven shillings and sixpence afterwards. The Gentlemen's servants at half-price.

Anticipation Row, May 23, 1826."

Of the Baronet's "Masters and Keepers," one, "Verax," had not an exalted opinion. He pointed out that before 1767 was the "golden age" of the Corporation, when the expense of gaol, bridges, &c., was defrayed out of the rents of the

Corporation estates; but, after that date, these were met by a Borough Rate, and the Corporation spent the rents on themselves, and their "wretched parasites and tools;" a Mayor, in 1822, having even declared that "the Corporation were possessed of considerable estates in their own proper right, and over these estates had, by law, as free and ample a dominion as any individual over his own private property." Ratepayers, too, were refused an inspection and copies of the accounts received by the Corporation, until, after much trouble and the interposition of many obstacles, a peremptory mandamus applied for was at last granted by the Court of King's Bench. These proceedings led "Verax" to exclaim:—"This—this is your Corporation! These are the gentlemen who cry, 'No Popery!' Let them cry what they please; let them dispose of their Four Thousand Pounds a year as they please; let them instruct their worthy Town Clerk, and their very worthy Recorder as they please (if indeed they want any instruction), but do not you, Electors, suffer yourselves to be entrapped, so as to become the willing instrument of a Body particularly alive to their own interest, and very little attentive to yours. Vote for those, and those only, who offer themselves independently of the Corporation, and leave to the worthy Body the enjoyment of their own self-consequence, and the praises of their own wretched parasites and tools." At this stage, the electors were reminded that 800 honorary Freemen had been manufactured by the Corporation to deprive Freemen, by birth or apprenticeship, and Burgesses, by "scot and lot," of their elective franchise. In response to Sir Charles Abney-Hastings' catchword of "True Blue for Ever," the popular war-cry arose, "No Corporation Monopoly! Evans and Independence!" Nevertheless, there were not wanting sturdy scribes to maintain the Baronet to be "an Englishman and a gentleman, the lover of his country, and the true friend of the poor;" and the Freemen were entreated not to give up their privileges and sink into "the tools and creatures of Priests and Cardinals"the "sworn enemies of all reform," and the strenuous opposers even of the light of the Gospel. While Sir Charles was "cordially thanking" the Electors for "the successful issue of another day's canvass," a satirical poet was singing :-

Tory honours abound
In his conquering course,
He enters our ground
With chariots and horse.
And when we come down
With our Lords, Dukes and Earls,
We'll thrust on the town
Indisposed Sir Charles.

Then a health to the Cock
Who's sufficiently blue
At the first little shock,
Brave Electors! from you.
And off with your toasts,
For how should he fail;
The Blue Cock who boasts
A White Speck on his tail?

One sanguine scribe opined that the electors would not hesitate a moment in resting their choice on Mr. Evans, who was possessed of parliamentary experience, and had been foremost in advocating Parliamentary Reform, Public Economy, the abolition of the Corn Laws and the suppression of West Indian Slavery. "Above all," wrote he, "(if report be true) Sir Charles Hastings is a Slave-owner. Remember the fable of the dog and the shadow!!!" Another leaflet invited tenders to be sent into the "Tribulation Office" for "a large white Feather and a Blue Cockade" which Sir Charles intended to leave behind him as "a memento of the wisdom and valour of himself and friends;" the tenderers being particularly requested to remember the Baronet's instinctive dislike to the least shade of mazarine or purple. It goes without saying that an immediate denial is given to the story that the "True Blue" candidate, or any of his family was, or ever had been a Slave-owner, but that did not prevent the tale from being developed into a cartoon. the foreground are two negro slaves in chains. One pointing to the background is ejaculating "See, see, Massa is turned into a great Blue Cock." The other, with his eyes also on the background, while being flogged by an overseer is praying, "O Massa, Massa, now you have the white slaves, make the poor black slaves free." The driver replies, "Get up, you rascal, Master wants all the slaves he can get." In the background is an old-fashioned coach labelled Borough Rates; with a cock in full plumage, whose cock-a-doodle-doo clarion is interpreted into "Britons never shall be slaves." The coachman, whip in hand, is the Mayor, and the ribbons he handles are attached by hooks to the noses of the Borough officials who draw the vehicle. preceded by a full band. Dragged in the rear of the coach are the 800 Honorary Freemen, attached to the vehicle by lines.

with hooks through their noses. The moral of the engraving is obvious. As a specimen of mild language, commend us to a few paragraphs in a grandiloquent manifesto over the pseudonym of Elia:-"In William Evans, you have a tried man, a man beloved in private, and firm in public life, who has supported, and, in doing so, has given the sweet pledge that he will support, the cause of reform, retrenchment and liberty; a commercial man, qualified as well as inclined to relieve your trade from its oppression, and whose private interests are all on the side of his public duty. If domestic worth, an ample fortune, and past experience, are any guarantee for consistency and independence. you have them in William Evans. To Evans, then, I mean, if necessary, to give a plumper. In Otway Cave, you have a Liberal Blue—one who prefers Canning to Castlereagh—Robinson and Huskisson to Sidmouth and Vansittart-and young Peel to old Eldon. He thinks that loyalty and liberality are not incompatible, and that reform is, at any rate, better than revolu-If I can do it without compromising the cause of Evans, I mean to give Cave my second vote. Sir Charles Hastings has chosen intolerance for his motto, and injustice for his means. trust there is spirit sufficient among the Liberal Blues to rescue the Town from the indelible disgrace of being compelled by the Corporation to send a man to Parliament, who, with the pretensions of a soldier, has the heart of a mouse! who is alike unable to sustain the contempt of his opponents, or the conviviality of his friends; and who has shewn so little regard to veracity, or even to the decent appearance of it, as to assert in his first handbill that his reception has been marked by the general enthusiasm of the Town!!! I trust, Electors, that the same feeling of enthusiasm will continue to prevail towards him; at the same time that we all know the magistrates have thought it necessary to issue a public notice for the express purpose of restraining any further expression of it. Let the friends of liberty rally round Evans—the friends of liberty and loyalty round Cave; and leave the bigoted Baronet, with his white lies and white feather, to be nursed by those who are like him. If the Corporation are to be masters of the Town, they certainly cannot have a fitter representative." I must say this much for the printers of the day, that they were not afraid to affix their imprints to the most

violent anonymous sheets, and amongst the names I find:—A. Cockshaw, Printer, High Street; J. Fowler, Printer, Leicester; T. Thompson, Printer, Leicester; J. G. Brown, Printer, Leicester; R. Tibbutt, Printer, Haymarket; Chamberlain, Printer, Eastgates; T. Combe and Sons, Printers, Leicester; J. Price, jun., Journal office; and I. Cockshaw, Printer, opposite the Three Crowns, Leicester. The "triumphant" entrance of Sir Charles Hastings having given rise to some street disturbance, the Corporation "thought it right to address a few words of caution to the people," which produced a caustic rejoinder from "One of the People." "The immoderate men of the Body of which you are the Head," said he, "have thought proper to disturb this state of political tranquility, by bringing in an Ultra, and not only so, but to parade him in a long and ostentatious cavalcade. through the before peaceful Town. In this cavalcade were a number of young demireps—the Toms and Jerrys of our Town -notorious at the Theatre and other places of public resort, for all those various exhibitions of 'flash and frolic' under which 'Life' shows itself in Leicester. Some of these loyal lads, bedizened with blue ribbons, and within with blue ruin, thought proper to correct sundry impertinent remarks, in which John Bull thought proper to include himself, with their horsewhips. Now, it is very true, as your Worships say, that no excitement should provoke to violence, but human nature has its infirmities. and honest John has a particular dislike to the flogging system in all its branches. He therefore, unfortunately, forgot your Worships and himself, and returned the compliment paid him with interest. I beg to assure your Worships that I delight as little in broken heads or windows as your Worships; but methinks your Worships should have lectured the horsewhippers as well as the pelters, and not have winked at Tom and Jerry, while you threw all the blame on poor, poor, poor, miserably poor John. It does my heart good to hear your Worships declare that you consider it 'disgraceful to destroy the freedom of Election'-because I am sure, after this public declaration, Mr. Mayor, who is as honest a man as any in the town, will never suffer those rascally voters to poll, who were made some time ago by the Corporation, on purpose to crush the freedom of Election in this Borough." While on this

subject, I am glad to be able to produce a dispassionate witness between the excited contending parties. The "Globe and Traveller" (still well known from its evening pink sheet), of 19th June, 1826, contained the following article on the creation of "Honorary Freemen":—"We called attention, some days ago, to the conduct of the Corporation of Leicester, which has also, we are glad to see, engaged the attention of some of our contemporaries. The subject is of importance, as it involves a practice which might destroy popular rights in all the boroughs where they now exist. In 1822, the Corporation of Leicester sent the following circular to 2,000 clergy and gentlemen:—

CIRCULAR (Copy.)

"SIR,—I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Corporation of Leicester have unanimously elected you to be an Honorary Freeman of the Borough. They are anxious to increase the number of Freemen by the addition of gentlemen of sound constitutional principles, and they trust that you will do them the favour to take up your freedom at as early a period as possible. The Corporation will defray all fees and charges incident to the occasion, but you will have to pay a stamp duty of £3 to the King; a sacrifice to which they doubt not you will cheerfully submit, in support of a cause so identified with the best interests of the public.—I have the honour to be. Sir, your obliged and humble servant,

THOMAS BURBIDGE, Town Clerk."

It is obvious that the motive of this proceeding was to secure a majority at future elections! that is, by a forced levy of these sham freemen, to overpower the opinions and votes of the persons properly entitled to the freedom of the borough. Eight hundred of these honorary freemen actually took up their freedoms, and of these 104 are clergymen, 14 Baronets or sons of nobility, 103 graziers or farmers, and all of them non-residents, for whom the franchise of the Borough could never have been intended. If this practice be lawful, it is clear that it loudly calls for parliamentary interference; but it is probable that, even as the law stands, it is illegal and indeed, as in other cases, the only pretence under which the guilty parties attempt to shelter themselves, is a statute made for the more effectually

repressing their offences. Before the year 1762, it is clear that Corporations bestowing their civic freedom on honorary freemen, for the purpose of exercising the elective franchise, was highly penal at common law, and the vote bad for occasionality, when the fact of the motive of creation could be established (as in the present case no doubt it could). To establish each specific case was, however, so difficult, that the nuisance of these fraudulent creations of freemen, then conducted with great caution, became intolerable, which gave rise to the Act Geo. III, c. 15, entitled 'an act to prevent occasional freemen from voting at elections of members to serve in Parliament for cities and Boroughs.' The preamble recites that, "whereas great abuses have been committed in making freemen of corporations, in order to influence elections of members to serve in Parliament, to the great infringement of the rights of freemen of such corporation and of the freedom of election." To prevent such practices, it is enacted that no one shall vote in a city or borough as a freeman only, 'unless he shall have been admitted to the freedom twelve months before the first day of such election.' The Corporation of Leicester probably imagine that this Act has legalized the nuisance it sought to abate; but we (Globe) doubt much the validity of this convenient interpretation. vote made for electioneering purposes (if proved so) is bad at common law for ever; and the statute 3, Geo. III. evidently does not change the law in that respect, but it superadds a cautionary enactment to guard against the deficiencies of legal proof. It throws an obstacle, by way of police, in the way of an offence of which the detection and punishment were difficult and uncertain; but surely it never intended to give impunity to the offence where this obstacle has been of no avail. It is evident that the reformers of the Leicester Corporation might just as well have created 8,000 as 800-and, indeed, as it was, their grants of freedom were only limited by the number of persons of "sound constitutional principles" willing to receive it. It is mockery to talk of franchises-of vested rights, if any Corporation has it in its power to overwhelm the real possessors of those franchises and rights by occasional voters. The abuse, we trust, is too gross to go long without a remedy. The following is a copy of the circular sent round to the Honorary Freemen by the Town Clerk, with the idea of the Corporation of the qualifications of the respective Candidates at the present Election:—

"Leicester, 27th May, 1826.

"SIR,-I am directed by the Corporation to take the liberty of representing to you the present state of affairs with respect to the Borough Election. Sir C. A. Hastings, Bart., comes forward on the invitation of the Corporation and the True Blue interest, to support the King and Constitution in Church and State. He is an avowed opponent to what some call Catholic Emancipation, but what we call Popish Ascendancy. He is directly opposed by Mr. William Evans, who stands forward on the low party and Radical interest, and who is the champion of reform and the pretended liberalities of the day, and a decided friend to Catholic Emancipation. The third candidate is Mr. Otway Cave, whose family was originally staunch blue. He says his mind is not made up on the Catholic Question, and on that subject he will give no pledge. In other respects he professes to be blue, and though an admirer of the New Lights rather than the Old, he is more decidedly blue than After this explanation, you will judge which Mr. Evans. candidates best claim your support; but the Corporation trust that the Old True Blue interest will not occupy the lowest place in your regard. The Committee will be much obliged by your exertions, and by any returns which you can make to them.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your most obliged and humble Servant, THOMAS BURBIDGE, Town Clerk."

Truly, tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis! One could as readily swallow the assertion of a lunatic that the moon is made of green cheese as imagine Mr. Storey penning such epistles as the above. The names of the clergymen chosen Freemen by the Corporation were placarded on a sheet with a deep black border and bearing the title, "Honorary Clericals, or the 100 Chaplains of the Holy Alliance." Beneath was this text from John xviii, 36, "Jesus answered, my kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight." The following five lines from Cowper's "Task" were also quoted:—

————Chartered Boroughs are but public plagues; And Burghers, men immaculate perhaps In all their private functions, once combined, Become a loathsome body, only fit For dissolution, hurtful to the main.

It will be observed that the Corporation were not positively averse to the return of Mr. Otway Cave, though so far he had managed to pose as a semi-popular candidate. The canvas had progressed and each of the three candidates prophesied his own triumph. The poets were not on the side of Sir Charles Abney-Hastings, as a quotation from a fabled courtship to the tune of "Derry Down" will show:—

They search'd and they travelled, they begg'd and they bought,
And they found with much trouble the Slave whom they sought.
When he first came to ask for his mistress's grace,
He sat down on the sofa, and yawn'd in her face.

He said that her Guardians were very good men, And he then pick'd his teeth and fell yawning again. "I'm too poorly," quoth he, "to come hither to woo; But I'll send you a friend and I hope that will do."

La! Sir,—if the man is so sick and so stupid He is fitter by far for a Doctor than Cupid; Get physic and flannel and have him to bed; If he's too ill to woo, he is too ill to wed.

"If even the lover who flatters and vows,
Oft turns out a surly and negligent spouse,
Can I venture my person and wealth in the care
Of one who, in courtship, behaves like Bear?"

Our case, my good Lads, and the case of this Lass, Are as like as an Alderman is to an ass; Then a fig for the Blues, and without further parley— Let us stand by old Leicester and keep out Sir Charley.

The allusions here were to Sir Charles's frequent indisposition and to his unreadiness of speech, which seldom went beyond the parrot-cry of "True Blue for Ever," without even the pachydermatous Town Clerk having occasion to blush for his pupil. Messrs. True Blue and Company retorted with a rather effective Auction Sale Bill of "Radical Trinkets and other effects of an establishment who are retiring for want of public support." A note intimated that "as most of the lots are faded

and worse for wear, the smallest bidding will be taken; every lot must be cleared off the ground at the expense of the purchaser, and no allowance can be made for cracks, flaws, or imperfections." The body of the bill ran as follows:—

- "The Articles most worthy of notice are the following: -
- "Lot 1.—A Derbyshire Youth—rising forty—phyz ominous—person meagre—some time a Fox-hunter, now a Saint—a Reformer and Radical to the back-bone. N.B.—He has a great inclination to turn Papist, and is nearly related to the candidate for Preston.
- "Lot 2.—A Non-descript, who speaks fair and softly, says one thing and means another, once blue, then blue or yellow, but at present is taking a purple cast. He can play at cricket, make a speech on Catholic or Negro Emancipation, and can shuffle and cut with a Bet with considerable ingenuity, of which acquirement information can be given by Dr. Dalton. This nick-nack has been sometimes advantageously exhibited at Missionary meetings as a Hindoo Goddey; indeed, his accomplishments are so numerous, that he may be used for any purpose whatever. No objection to dirty work if it suits his employer."

Finally, the Bill lumped together an assortment of "heterogeneous articles," such as "Stone images without heads, Woollen Mawkins for Cornfields, Presbyterian Pew-openers," &c., &c. To rub off the impression of the above appeared the following:—

"ESCAPED

From his Feeder, in Belgrave Gate, a Blue Cock with a white feather in his tail; is supposed to have taken flight to the Woods at Willesley. He has been trained for fighting, but one trial proved a Dunghill. If not taken before the 29th inst., he may probably be found perched with others of the feathered tribe, at a Pitt Club Dinner at Derby, on that day; being one of the patrons of the Society. It is hoped no person will attempt to secure him by shooting, as he is known to have a thorough dislike to the smell of powder.

"If delivered to the Corporation, the captor will be rewarded by receiving instruction in the legerdemain art of thumbing and humbug.

Starvation Office, May 27th, 1826."

On 29th May, 1826, at a meeting of mechanics, artizans, &c., in the Infirmary Square, under the chairmanship of Mr. William Lilley, the following resolutions were put and carried:—

1st,—Resolved that as undue influence is in full exercise against Mr. Evans' interest, it now behoves us to be decided for him.

2nd,—Resolved that as undue influence is in full exercise, now is the day, the hour, yea the moment for us to come forward as men to make our choice, and if Mr. Evans is our choice and we wish to return him to Parliament, we must act on a strict line of policy by giving him Plumpers.

3rd,—Resolved that as Mr. Evans is a man that will best answer our wishes in Parliament, we ought not only to favour him with our own vote, but also to solicit our friends and neighbours to do the same.

Still, an effort was made to cheer up the hearts of the Blues by a stave adapted to the stirring tune of "Hearts of Oak." Thus it was the numbers ran:—

Come cheer up my Lads, who are hearts of True Blue, Be faithful to Hastings, who's faithful to you. Exert all your spirits in Freedom's bright cause, Be true to your King, your Country and Laws.

CHORUS.

By reason directed, your cause now pursue,
Be stedfast and loyal,
And take no denial,
But vote for brave Hastings, he's honest True Blue.

As an offset to the denied accusation that Sir Charles Abney-Hastings was a West Indian slave-owner, in a placard (under the heading of "Tell Truth and Shame the Devil!") it was stated:—"It is true that Sir Charles is not one of those who, while they use 'negro slavery' as cant words for acquiring popularity, do not hesitate to advocate the worst of SLAVERY—that slavery both of body and mind, which the Pope and his ad-

herents would introduce amongst us, neither does he PEN UP hundreds of poor children every day in a suffocating cotton MILL, and resist every hamane attempt which may be made for letting them enjoy a little pure air and a few of the comforts of life in common with their fellow-creatures. If he were a SAINT, he might do all this!!" This blow at Mr. Evans was parried by a public invitation to the electors to visit Darley Cotton Mills and see for themselves the steps taken by Mr. Evans to secure the the moral, educational and physical well-being of the children in his employment; and a confident appeal was made to review his parliamentary action in this regard; he having been the first of the new cotton-lords to join in the advocacy of shorter hours of labour and some of the other philanthropic limitations which years afterwards received salutary embodiment in the Factory Acts. The outcry against Corporation domination was answered in this way by "A Plain Man," whose plea for the ruling powers was the well-known one of "the loaves and fishes:"-"When you want your children or your brothers and sisters educated and clothed, will they (the radicals) give you the means to do this? No! but the Corporation do. Should you want to put them out apprentice, will they find a Premium? No! but the Corporation do. When you want to set them up in business will they lend them money? No! but the Corporation do. When you are sick, aged or infirm, will theu find you an asylum where you may rest from your labour and be at peace? No! but the Corporation will—and with these and many other advantages, in which they can and do serve you, are you to be led away by these pretended friends and real foes? You may, if you think fit, but you will rather proclaim your folly than show your independence." To the above "A Plainer Man" found the ready retort:-"They (the Corporation) and they alone educate and clothe your children, brothers and sisters, put them out apprentice, set them up in business, and find them an asylum when sick, aged or infirm. What ignorant, absurd boasting, what humbug is this! It is true, they have a portion of Sir Thomas White's money to lend to Freemen; likewise the appointment of boys to Alderman Newton's Charity School; and an Hospital for the aged poor in the Newarke. But what of that? What thanks to them?

further than as Trustees acting under the wills of the donors. from which situation they are liable to be removed, if proof of misapplication of the funds should ever be made out against them. They have a duty to perform, and it ought to be discharged without favour or affection. But is it so? Has it never been perverted to electioneering purposes?-to the obtaining the votes and securing the applause of their own creatures? But this is not all. Have they not other Estates of large amount, which for ages were devoted to public purposes, though they now call them their own, and say that they have as ample a dominion over them 'as any individual has over his own private property?" Have they not laid on us the Borough Rate, now of enormous amount, to answer expenses which those Estates formerly defrayed? Do they not reap the advantage of this strange proceeding? Let the 'Plain Man' answer these questions and then let him say on what ground they now call upon the Town to support their Tool? What do they do for the Town? They tax it. But they expect the Town to do something for them! If the Town will give up to them the sole privilege of electing Members of Parliament, somebody will be the better for it; and if we may judge from past experience, it is not very difficult to foresee who that somebody will be." While the paper war of No Popery versus Catholic Emancination raged furiously, Mr. Otway Cave adroitly gave a "seasonable donation" of Fifty Pounds to the Frame-work knitters' Society which the Chairman, Thomas Clarke, and 18 members of the Committee publicly acknowledged in a hand-bill with "peculiar gratification." Their gratitude induced them to appeal to "fellow-workmen" in the following terms:-"We think him (the donor) deserving our entire confidence—we ask for him that confidence from you, convinced that he will strictly fulfil the pledge he has given, and that he is the sincere friend of civil and religious liberty." Seventeen of these "fellow-workmen." while thankful for Mr. Cane's donation, but they consider the moral drawn from it "most unwarrantable" and "feel confident the Framework-knitters will be induced by this puny attempt to withdraw their full support from Mr. Evans, who has decidedly superior claims to their confidence, inasmuch as he has openly avowed his sentiments—sentiments which are in unison with the

great body of Framework-knitters and the community at large." A stirring protest was made against an appeal made to the Leicestershire Yeomanry on behalf of Mr. Cave and against Mr. Evans-"an unconstitutional appeal on the pretence that their assistance is necessary to put down the spirit of Revolution and wherein a military body which, as such, cannot by law even approach the place of election, is summoned to join the Corporation in the contest against Evans and the Independent Interest of Leicester." a speech to Leicester Freemen resident in London, at the Two Brewers, London Wall, on Wednesday, May 24, 1826, Mr. Fowell Buxton, M.P., said of the "purple candidate":-"If you want dear bread, and all the miseries attendant on monopolies and restrictions, don't have my friend, for although a gentleman of landed property, he is decidedly adverse to all laws that have a tendency to raise the price of food. If any of you will say. I will never support the man who will favour the Catholic claims, don't have Mr. Evans, for my friend and I feel alike on that subject; we think it very desirable to grant to the Catholics the right which they are now deprived of, not only as consistent Christians we ought to do so, but in order to preserve the safety of the empire. If any Churchman were to say to any gentleman present who may be a Dissenter, 'you shall go with me,' I am confident you would indignantly say, 'No, I will not.' If therefore we wish to gain the Catholics to our opinions, we must persuade and no force them; we must show a spirit of liberality and not drive them to desperation by a narrow policy and degrading disabilities." After urging strenuous exertions on behalf of the enslaved negroes, Mr. Fowell Buxton concluded:-"It is the duty of every man to do everything in his power to put a stop to this great evil; and it is the duty, as well as I hope it is the pleasure, of every gentleman amongst you, to exert himself to send Mr. Evans to Parliament. But do not send him as a friend of mine—do not be satisfied on my recommendation: look for yourselves, -examine his past conduct-look at what he has done; and send him, not as any man's friend, but for the good he can do." "A Freeman by Birth" issued a really eloquent address to the "Honorary Freemen." After pointing out

these creations were "intended as the bribes to a base acquiescence—a servile vassulage to Bigotry, to Ignorance, and to Imbecility!"--"A Freeman by Birth" asked these questions:--"Can you consider that as an honour, or as a compliment which is to be exercised under such degrading conditions? Can you willingly become the active accomplices in a project so absurd—so unjust? Can you voluntarily sign such an abdication of your independence? Can you commit such a wilful suicide on your understanding?" Finally "A Freeman by Birth" said:-"Several of you, I hear, consider yourselves not under fetters, but as bound to exercise your franchise according to your con-This augurs well. It would be a reproach to the Town-to the Neighbourhood, and to the Country, if Eight Hundred high-minded persons could be found, who should feel the least gratification in being appointed the Body Guards—the Janizaries of such a Divan as the Leicester Corporation." The address partially quoted above was issued on 30th May, 1826, and on the following day "An Old Burgess" followed up the subject, in an elaborate argument, a quotation from which is worth preserving:—"But if," wrote he, "the Corporation forsakes its proper office; if instead of watching over the peace of Leicester and conducting its police; distributing the public charities fairly and impartially; considering itself as the organ of conveying the sentiments of the Borough to the higher functionaries in the State-if it puts itself forward to control the public will, to stifle independence, to nourish bigotry and prejudice, and to oppose generous and enlightened views of national policy: if to effect these objects it resorts to the senseless expedient of raising the cry of a mere colour, and to the abuse of its right of creating Honorary Freemen, by creating multitudes of Freemen in distant parts, not for any purpose of honour, but for overpowering if possible the voice of the Borough, by deluging the town with them as voters at the time of an election: if the Corporation acts in this manner, can it escape censure? Ought it to escape censure? Can it escape opposition? Ought it to escape defeat? When held by its partisans to be a grand caterer and dry-nurse of the town, its inhabitants may well be allowed, in the spirit of free-born Britons, to say whether they like such a cateror, and whether they will extend

their arms to receive the leading strings of such a dry-nurse; and I hope they will prove, on the present occasion, that they can cater very well for themselves, and walk very well without leading strings." In the midst of the rolling of Anti-Popery thunder, "A Liberal Protestant" quietly reminded the electors of an undeniable fact:-" Perhaps it is not generally known that the Trinity and Wigston Hospitals and Sir Thomas White's excellent Charity, are all Catholic foundations, endowed by individuals! The last was specially intended to assist the first establishment of young artizans and tradesmen, whose sole pretensions were integrity, industry and necessity! Of late years it has had a very different appropriation—occasionally to store the wine-cellars of the opulent; but in general as rewards for sycophants, as lures for the dubious and as bribes to the turbulent; all of whom, in general, evince their gratitude to the donor, by gross abuse of his Faith!" "A Manufacturer," warned wool-combers. Framework-knitters and all connected with the Woollen trade that Mr. Evans, on 22nd May, 1824, opposed the interests of manufactures by either voting for, or absenting himself from the division on, the Act permitting the exportation of wool, which, it was alleged, had thrown thousands out of employ and brought them, their wives and children, almost to starvation. This inuendo was immediately nailed as "the latest lie of the day" by "Touch Him Again," who wrote:-"When the Commercial interest endeavoured to obtain permission to import foreign wool free of duty, the Landed interest refused to acquiesce in the measure, unless English wool was allowed to be exported at the same time: and the trade being unable to obtain their object on any other terms, were obliged to submit to this condition; so that the two Bills went through Parliament together as parts of the same measure. With respect to the effect produced, there was a considerable importation of wool while the price was high, but no export; and the price is at this moment lower than usual. If the writer of the handbill I allude to knew these things, he is a knave; if he did not know them, he is a fool!" By the end of the first week in June, 1826, Mr. Cave was in disgrace with the "purple" interest. He had tried to look one way and row the other, and at last, instead of running with Mr. Evans, he ranged himself with

the Corporation and Sir Charles Abney-Hastings. This "trimming policy" was characterised by "A Friend to Consistency" in very vigorous terms. "At your first arrival," wrote his forcible critic, "you refused to pledge yourself to oppose the Catholic claims. Such a pledge would, you are aware, have rendered your return certain, and have prevented the Corporation from attaching itself to a man who then stood as far below you in estimation as he now stands above you. During a long canvass. during an animated controversy on the subject, you have remained silent, and now, just on the eve of the poll, you come forward to declare-What? That you will oppose Catholic Emancipation. No? But that you will not vote for it! What does this wretched evasion mean? If you disapprove of the Catholic claims, why not promise to vote against them? If you approve of them, why not, like a brave and honest man, vote for them? If you have not made up your mind on such a question, what business have you in Parliament? The case is clear, you have found that the shuffling course which you have hitherto pursued, has rendered your success hopeless. and you attempt to mend your condition by shuffling more and more. Sir, if I know anything of the English people, you have for ever undone yourself as a public man. They are hasty, they have strong prejudices and particularly on the Catholic question. But they are manly—they do not like a Papist, but they like a rat less, and a rat who pretends to independence less still, and a young rat who pretends to independence least of all!" This change of front was celebrated in a "Cave-atina" between "Runaway and Rataway:"-

Rat.—'Twas you, Sir,—'twas you, Sir,
You look so very Blue, Sir,
'Twas you that turned your tail, Sir
'Twas you, Sir, 'twas you.

Run.—'Tis true. Sir,—'tis true Sir,
I did the same as you, Sir,
'Twas'you that turned your Coat, Sir
'Twas you, Sir 'twas you.

Rat.—'Twas you, Sir,—'twas you, Sir,
I tell you nothing new, Sir
'Twas you that turned your tail, Sir
'Twas you, Sir, 'twas you.

Rat.—O, fie! Sir,—O, fie! Sir,
You know you've told a lie, Sir,
'Twas you that told a lie, Sir,
'Twas you, Sir, 'twas you.

CHORUS.—Rat. and Run.

'Twas you, Sir,—'twas you, Sir,

You look so very Blue, Sir,

'Twas you that turned your Coat,

your Tail,

'Twas you, Sir,—'Twas you.

But the most remarkable of all the ante-election effusions was written by Lord Macaulay, from whose pen, the world knows, readily flowed a picturesque history, a stirring lay of ancient Rome, a philosophical essay, or a playful pasquinade. His contribution to the Parliamentary struggle of 1826, I have the proud satisfaction of rescuing from imminent oblivion and presenting it to my readers. Here it is verbatim et literatim:—

Fragments of an Ancient Romance.

"Of tourneys and of trophies hung,
Of forests and enchantments drear,
Where more is meant than meets the ear."

IL PENSEROSO.

And now the day was come, whereon it behoved such knights as, for the enchained princess, were minded to encounter danger, to do battle against the champions of the Blue Magician. So the Lists were set out, and proclamation made: and the Lady was brought forth in her fetters, sad, but exceedingly beautiful.

Then rode into the lists, two knights of gallant bearing and courteous demeanour. The first was in purple armour, and on his shield he bare a wheat sheaf and a broken chain, with this motto

"Liberte et Loyaute."

Next came a knight in party—colored armour, which changed its colour, like shot silk, according as the sun shone upon it:

for now it was purple, and now again it was blue. And his device was one falling between two stools. And round it was this scroll:—

"Two sounds from one tongue, Two breaths from one lung, Two faces in one hoode, Aeber wrought gaine ne goode."

And these two knights rode three times round the lists, and none appeared to measure lance with them. Wherefore all that pitied the captive Princess, or hated the Blue Magician, shouted for joy and hope.

But the Blue Magician called unto him the foul fiend who on earth is called Bourbedji, his familiar imp, and said to him, "Bourbedji, thou seest that he of the purple armour and he of the two stools will carry the day and set free the lady, unless order be taken, and that right soon. Now, therefore, go forth and find me a champion." And Bourbedji went forth and spoke with all the Knights that were under the spell of the Blue Magician, with the Knight of the Spinning-jenny, and the Knight of the Orange Peel; but they would not hearken to him. Then he went to the Knight who lives on the Wolds, and bears in his scutcheon the seven lean ears of corn with this motto:

"Let poor men starbe, so there be feast For Peer and Bishop, Unight and Priest."

But neither would the Knight of the Seven Lean Ears comply; for he feared sore the prowess of the Purple Knight. Now there lived near a craven Knight, that never came either in mellay of battle, or galliard of ladies. To him came Bourbedji and said, "Brave Sir, the Blue Magician is sore bested: and if thou wilt do battle for him, thou shalt possess the Princess and her dowry." And that unknightly Knight put on his armour. It was blue, and his device was a cock azure, with a tail argent; and round it was written:

"A neither strutte, ne crowe, ne fighte,
For why? Because mp tail is white."

And when the Blue Knight came to the lists, he saluted not the ladies, nor gave largess to the heralds, nor caracoled round the

open space, nor gave any sign of good cheer and stout heart, as beseems gentle blood; but he lay on his horse like a miller's sack, and he looked like a thief that hath reached the last round of the ladder and the last stave of the psalm. And he bade Bourbedji have a leech in readiness; and he held his spear as if he wist not how to couch it.

But not so he of the purple armour; for he rode at that recreant Knight right furiously, and smote him down and trampled upon him. And the crowd shouted and clasped their hands and said, "Glory to the Purple Knight! Accursed be the Blue Magician and his slaves!" And the ladies threw on the Purple Knight violets and lilies. But him of the blue they took, and stripped off his armour, and stuck over him white cock's feathers, and set him on an ass with his face to the tail, and bade him to return whence he came, lest worse should befall him. Now of this craven our history saith no more.

Then all the people took the Blue Magician, and broke his wand, and burnt him at a great stake for a wicked and fiendish sorcerer. And his ashes they sprinkled in the air. And the Princess was set free, and she espoused the Purple Knight; and all that were there rejoiced; chiefly the Knights Templars of the Holy Temple, and that good and gentle Knight of the Frith, which had before loved and served the Princess, and which did now, with great content, deliver her to the Purple Knight.

CID HAMET BENENGELL.

Doubtless, most of my readers have—to use a very modern vulgarism—"tumbled to" the characters indicated in the satire, but to some the subjoined partial key may be useful:—

The Princess-The Borough of Leicester.

The Blue Magician-The Corporation of Leicester.

Bourbedji, his familiar imp-Mr. Thomas Burbidge, Town Clerk.

The Knight of the Wolds-Mr. C. G. Munday.

The Knight of the Purple-Mr. William Evans.

The Knight of the Two Stools-Mr. R. Otway Cave.

The Blue Knight-Sir Charles Abney-Hastings.

The Knight of the Frith-Mr. Thomas Pares.

Knights of the Tenple-Rev. C. Berry and other Ministers.

Eventually, the day of public nomination at the hustings— June 13th, 1826—arrived. After the nomination, on behalf of

the Corporation, of Sir Charles Abney-Hastings and Mr. R. Otway Cave, and, on behalf of the purple interest, of Mr. William Evans, an official ruse rendered a fourth proposition necessary, to which the Radicals responded by nominating Thomas (afterwards Lord) Denman. Thereupon I read that, "to throw ridicule upon this nomination, and for no other purpose, the Town Clerk immediately rose and nominated Mr. Cobbett, and the nomination was seconded by one of his tools." "An Observer," of a caustic pen, in due course, inquired of the electors:-" Now, gentlemen, what character does this proceeding deserve? Are the inhabitants of Leicester to be insulted and turned to ridicule by a creature who is actually fattening at their expence? Are they to be the subjects of his indecent sneers and misplaced jokes? Would it not be more becoming in him to mind his duty. and be content with filling his pockets, without insulting persons who are far more respectable and honourable than himself?" Though Mr. Denman was unable to leave London, he gallantly threw in his lot with Mr. Evans, rejoicing in his address to the electors that his name had been useful to "the upright and consistent candidate" who solicited their support. The friends of Evans and Denman fought gallantly every day, from 13th June to the close of the poll, on 22nd June, 1826; but their gallantry was of no avail against the serried ranks of the Corporation, Yeomanry included. It required more than nerve for an elector to walk into a pew like a sheep, to be questioned as to the candidate for whom he intended to vote, by "examining Town Clerks and Town Gaolers," and to press on to the poll in spite of threats or even blows! Sir Charles Abney-Hastings and Mr. Otway Cave were elected, and Messrs. Evans and Denman were defeated, but as the former put it, "neither degraded nor depressed." The contest had, at least, the merit of driving several nails into the coffin of the "unreformed Corporation." The candidates of these days who gird at spending a "couple of thou." in contesting a seat, should rather thank their stars that they did not see manhood in a generation, when it was needless for one to aspire without a purse, belonging either to himself or his friend, at least fifteen times as long. I have indulged at some length in this restrospect, from the

rare materials in my possession, because I think it will show restless people that instead of the political and municipal progress of England being slow, it has advanced at a tremendous pace since six and fifty years ago. Perhaps, however, it may also be noticed, that we, of 1880, have not advanced so very fast or so very far in the art of inditing political pasquinades. It is sufficient proof, that 1826 was the opening of a new era, when the Earl of Beaconsfield has selected 1828 as the opening year of his new novel, "Endymion."

WEST ST. MARY'S ELECTION, 1879.

From no egotistical feeling, but prompted by a sense of duty towards my native town, I felt impelled, in November, 1879, to put in an emphatic protest against the Municipal Hall being made the arena of political partisanship. If in that place we have good men and true to represent us, gifted with common sense and business acumen, what matters it whether the parliamentary flag they nail to the mast may be blue or purple or yellow? I have a keen sympathy with the "forlorn hope" that has been led with some gallantry by Major Millican and Alderman Winterton, for I cannot see how imperial bias can possibly affect or prejudice the efficiency of a sanitary van, the level of a street or the gradient of a sewer. As the campaign sheet issued by me fully explained my principles, I here subjoin it:—

MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

To the Independent Electors of West St. Mary's Ward.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—You will soon have the opportunity of electing two gentlemen to represent West St. Mary's Ward in the Town Council; and I beg, as an independent candidate, to solicit your suffrages and influence. I have no fault to find with the other gentlemen who have notified their intention of contesting the election; but I am naturally ambitious of representing the Ward in which my ancestors have resided for more than a century, and if you honour me with your confidence, I pledge myself to give honest consideration to, and to devote all necessary time to watching, the interests of the rate-

payers in general, without distinction of creed, party, or class. Long and successful business experience, intimate residence amongst you, many years' study of municipal successes and failures, and a minute acquaintance with the necessities of this Ward and of the Town, are the grounds on which I base my claim to the honour of being chosen by you, as your representative. Permit me to say that I am entitled to a large share of the credit for having Leicester made a military centre, having obtained and forwarded to Lord Cardwell a memorial in favour thereof signed, at my personal solicitation, by 2,600 fellowtownsmen. The immediate consequence of this has been the expenditure in this neighbourhood of £100,000 in the erection of military Barracks at Glenn Parva: while the future result will be an annual expenditure of £85,000 in our midst. I need not say that as a ratepayer I am averse to needless expenditure of the money of the people. There has been extravagance in the past, in many directions, and I should endeavour to relieve the burdens thereby imposed on your shoulders and mine, by having the property acquired by the Corporation put to more profitable uses than much of it at present is. At the same time, parsimony is not economy, and I could not stand in the way of needed improvements, although I should do my best, as a practical tradesman, to see them carried out in the cheapest manner compatible with efficiency. I have grave doubts about the practicability of the scheme for Sewerage, which includes the laying-out of a public Park in the Abbey Meadow; and a subject of such importance to the health of the people would, if you do me the honour to elect me, receive my most earnest and minute consideration, at whatever cost of time or trouble. I am anxious that Leicester should emulate the public spirit which characterises other great towns in England; and it therefore seems to me that all proper open spaces should be acquired now. before property rises to "fancy" prices, that, as building operations progress, every populous neighbourhood might have a recreation-ground, such frequent areas being as necessary for the free breathing of a manufacturing town, as the lungs are to the human system. Nor should I deem it too early to take into serious consideration the possibility of acquiring Bradgate Park, so glorious in natural beauties and historic memories,

as a great People's Park for Leicester; for we all hope that our good old town may in future become second to none in commercial prosperity, public spirit and national renown. Much too little has yet been done in the erection of Public Baths, easily accessible to the inhabitants in every populous locality; and I should, if returned, press on the Council the desirability of multiplying, at a moderate cost, those indispensible necessities of personal comfort and municipal health. Idesire to see Free Libraries and Museums opened on Sundays for the use of those who pay rates for the support of such institutions. and are prevented by their avocations from using them on weekdays. I am in favour of a searching inquiry in the management of our Charities and Schools, in order that they may not be alienated from the use of the poor and their children, for whom they were designed by the benevolent founders. sonally, I respect the occupants of the Magisterial Bench, but I cannot disguise my conviction that the ends of justice and economy would both be furthered by the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate. In the interests alike of Leicester and the suburban villages of Aylestone Park, Belgrave, Humberstone and Knighton, I deem that the time has arrived when a judicious scheme of Borough Extension should be considered and matured. One crying evil demands immediate remedy, and that is the disgraceful condition of our street pavements. I am an uncompromising opponent of the cheese-paring and narrowminded policy which has permitted the majority of our streets to lapse into or remain in so discreditable a condition. In particular, if you honour me with your confidence, I should press on the Council and the Highway Committee the urgent necessity for the erection of a suitable bridge by which easy access may be obtained from the Hinckley Road to the Newarkes. I am sanguine in asking your confidence, ladies and gentlemen, for our interests are identical. If elected, I shall bring practical judgment to bear on municipal business, and serve you with assiduity and honesty.-I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant, ROBERT READ, jun.

Wellington House, Southgate Street, Leicester, 14th October, 1879. I have little of the above to retract and little to add by way of supplement. I admit now that I may have been moved to the adoption of too pronounced views on the Sunday question by a conversation with Sir Joshua Walmesley, when I walked arm in arm with that patriotic gentleman at a *fete* given by the late Dr. Noble (noble in nature as well as in name) at his residence, Danett's Hall Park.

Well, I went into the contest with a light heart, having previously put the needed money into my purse, and had then the not too pleasant experience of having at my heels, by day and night, a regiment of more or less clever Leicester lads, ambitious to be canvassers or runners. All in all, they were not a bad lot, some of the wilder spirits from the Commons being uncommonly lively blades. But I must here deliberately express my conviction that printers' ink is good, and face-to-face meetings with a constituency are better, while canvassing, whether by a candidate or his agents, is a positive delusion and snare. It will be a good thing when the practice is statutorily prohibited.

I arranged, during the fortnight before the election, to address nightly two and sometimes three meetings, each at a different licensed house in some quarter of the Ward. My selection of public-houses for these gatherings was deliberate and conscientious, for I object to the ratepayers' Board Schools being used free of charge, not for public, but for partisan purposes. What I need for the furtherance of my own ambition I wish to pay for; and I should like everybody else to endeavour to do the same. The same may be said of vehicles. Where they are sent by friends, and not hired from the livery-keeper, the candidate has the best chance who has the greatest number of friends boasting the possession of that English token of respectability-"a gig" or other curricle on wheels. I felt highly flattered when my friends of the Liberal Club sent their entire force into West St. Mary's to squash the "red, white, and blue." They did not quite understand me, perhaps, or they might have sent a "pick-me-up" instead of delivering a "knock-me-down." However, my antagonists were moderately reticent in their attacks, and perhaps the fight was as decent a one as can be found in the Annals of Leicester. At all events, I can lay the

flattering unction to my soul that personal attacks—as far as the first blow is concerned—are utterly foreign to my nature. This is a pleasing sensation: that my contest cemented many new friendships and shattered no old friendliness. My own view of the defeat which ensued was fully embodied in the subjoined address, which needs no emendation:—

WEST ST. MARY'S WARD.

To the Free and Independent Electors.

Wellington House, 48, Southgate Street, 3rd November, 1879.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I am defeated, but not disgraced. The power of the "Caucus" has, for the present, extinguished your free and independent influence; but I am heartily grateful to the noble 830 who voted for me. In me there is "no surrender," and at the earliest possible time I shall again respectfully ask for your suffrages.

Your faithful Servant, ROBERT READ, jun.

In April, 1880, I might have fulfilled my promise to contest West St. Mary's Ward a second time, but on that occasion the election was no real battle, but a ridiculous pantomime.

The following amusing description of the contest of November, 1879, from the pen of "Leicester Lad"—a satirical writer of considerable humour—duly appeared in the *Mercury*, and will no doubt prove interesting in years to come:—

THE BATTLE OF LEICESTER.

A Comedy in one Act, by "Leicester Lad."

Characters: A Doctor, a Lawyer, a fine Old English Gentleman, a Captain, a Sapper and Miner, a Quarter-Master-Sergeant and Messenger, Attendants, etc.

TIME: Nov. 1st, 1879, B.C.

Scene: A room in a celebrated surgery at eight o'clock in the morning. Doctor (seated at his desk just finished morning papers): Now is the hour of my revenge at hand. For forty days have I been sorely troubled by the hosts of my Political enemies. All this time have they waged war against the armies of the Constitution, even the forces of Toryism, and Jingo, our great King. Many of the people have they led away from the paths of Conservatism, even the Road which our pious

ancestors followed; and there having arisen a strange person, "Leicester Lad," and other Pen Drivers, who do vex us continually and work mischief among the inhabitants of the city, writing in public prints things which do reflect upon our learned men and warriors. They do also have printed Bills containing statements, which do injure us, and fix them on walls; even walls which proclaim "Stick no Bills," which things do not we, nor never have done. In their wickedness, they do urge upon the men and women in this place to rebel against the principles of their forefathers, and hath excited them to fight against their chosen leaders—yea, even the leaders chosen for them at the shrine of the "Black Youth" and other of our public institutions, on which do depend the safety of our Empire. This day, however, they shall eat the dust-yea, they shall eat a peck of black Dust all at one time-for the armies of the Great Jingo will be avenged, and his colonels, and his majors, and his captains, and his quarter-master-sergeants shall do valiant things, and put to flight the forces of that miserable alien Radical. (A sound is heard in the outer Court.) Ah! what is that I hear? Yea, it is the assembling of the forces of the great Lord, even Jingo; his horsemen and chariots, and they do walk on their own legs, do meet to make ready for the fray. They bedeck themselves with Blue, even to their noses; they dress their horses with trappings of the deepest blue dve, and prepare for the hour at which they shall go forth and scatter the forces of their opponents. Behold, they look well; their attire is excellent; and they do exhibit an unparalleled sobriety, for they have been much tempted of late, even at the altar at the King's Head, and at the fountain erected to the memory of the immortal "Marlborough." Now are all things quite ready—the horses, the chariots, and those that hold the reins. Let them go forth and smite their opponents in the East and in the West; then shall the spoil be divided among them; the greater share to those who do the least, and the smaller share to those who do the most, according to the everlasting-the same to-day, yesterday and for ever, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall beprinciples of Toryism.

The forces of the Great Jingo go out in battle array, and the Doctor proceeds to furbish up his instruments for the political dissection of any who may be brought in prisoners of war during the conflict.

TIME: Noon.

Doctor: The affray has been proceeding for three hours. The armed men of Toryism—even the Heygatites, the Pellites, the Burnabyites, the Warnerites, and those that follow Manners—all these have been engaged for one hundred and eighty minutes, and I have no news. Peradventure, the battle waxeth fierce, or, more probably, our men are just employed in the last assault, which shall make their enemies lick the earth. Yea, each man among them shall lick an acre of earth. I shall surely have news before long, and, in the meantime, as the wise

man saith, no news must be accepted as good news. I will now dine, for of a truth, the great ones among the people must be filled, though commerce be depressed and misery and poverty abroad in the land. The common people may hunger and thirst, if they will—they must work though they eat not; but those that do no work, surely they must be blessed abundantly with lots of this world's goods. I will therefore eat and then nap, and be ready at such time as my messengers shall bring me tidings of the battle. [The Doctor retires to dine.]

TIME: A quarter-past four in the afternoon.

Doctor (in good spirits, but somewhat excited): Surely I shall hear news—Ah! welcome, trusty servant.

[Enter B-n-t, a messenger, tired and footsore.]

Doctor: What news have ye? Speak, faithful friend, speak.

Mess.: Sire, the battle did wax hot, yea burning hot, both sides fighting till towards sunset till their forces were spent. Our armies did fight valiantly—the Heygatites, the Pellites, the Burnabyites, the Warnerites and the followers of Manners, even the poet Manners—not bad manners. Sire, these did great execution, notwithstanding our enemies, those that oppose our glorious constitution and our sainted government, did trouble us exceedingly, but we have conquered. Behold now the counting of the slain is proceeding and will be declared later. Peradventure, Sire, you can wait until such hour as the statement is issued. I will faithfully relate all that occurreth in the meantime.

Doctor: It doth trouble me exceedingly to have to wait for anything that I do require immediately; but nevertheless of my goodness, I will patiently sit till I may hear the extent of our glorious victory. But see that thou sendest it quickly.

Mess.: Yours to command, sire.

Doctor: Go now, and peither eat nor drink nor rest till thou bringest me the Poll, even the Poll of the great fight.

Exit Mess.

TIME: Half-past six o'clock.

Doctor (pacing up and down surgery, greatly agitated, wringing his hands, his hair standing on end): Of a truth, it is time I had the Poll. Ah, friends, where's the Poll? [Enter a lawyer and fine old English gentleman. A pause]. Why this holding of the tongue? Why this suppressed emotion, this hanging of the head, these silent tears? Speak, I pray thee; speak quickly. [Another pause]. Have ye then lost the Poll?

Lawyer (to fine old English centleman): Lift up thy voice and tell the news.

F. O. E. G.: Nay, verily, thou art a man with a ready tongue. Tell thou the news.

Lawyer: Sire, verily, we have toiled all day, but caught nothing.

Doctor: What! Caught nothing, not even defeat. Thou speake in parables. Tell me of the defeat of the aliens.

Lawyer (in tears): Nay, sir, would that we could! It is we who have been defeated. We did in the East of the Division which doth commemorate our sainted Mary, and our armies did fight valiantly. We did list on our side young men and maidens and ladies of winning ways, who did us good service and struggled hard for the victory. We ourselves did make fine promises. I did tell them how I had attended to the duties of mine office—yea, I did tell them I had been present at mine post more than seven times during a whole year, and that I stood against the door till I almost gained the name of doorkeeper; while my colleague's good deeds were before all the people, and did need no trumpeting. But the inhabitants of this part of the city, alas, would have none of it, and lo, behold! we stand before the sorrowful castaways, whom no man will take in.

F. O. E. G.: Yea of a truth; it is as the lawyer hath spoken.

 ${\it Doctor}: {\sf Verily \ this \ has \ overcome \ me.} \ {\sf How \ accountest \ thou \ for \ this?}$

Lawyer: There existeth in this city a society called Liberal Association, which doth trouble us exceedingly. Its organisation is remarkable; it is founded on the principles of representation, which principles know not the Tories-indeed we are far alove such trifles. This association did give help. A certain man named Clephan did use great effort, against us; and a man of small stature but of excellent parts, a member of the great family of the Smiths and an officer in the camp of the enemy -these two with many others did come in against us. And behold an elderman in this community who once served as chief amongst us (Barfoot by name), he did issue a flat, and forthwith there came out against us a body of trained men, caucusites, even those who dwell in the land of the Liberal Club, and those caucusites did smite us on the front on both flanks, and in the rear, and vexed our men very much in so far that they were compelled to fall back, our chariots and our horsemen, and they that walked on their own legs-these caucusites did stir up the people greatly; they brought into the field a larger force than we ourselves commanded, and behold now we stand before thee even as I have said, cast out; and I, even I, shall no more be a door-keeper in the Council Chamber of the community.

F. O. E. G.: Verily it is as the Lawyer has spoken.

Doctor: This news is very sad and I am exceeding sorrowful. But let us not be altogether cast down. Surely we shall hear good news from our faithful Margaret.

Lawyer: Mine enemies do taunt me that they have been delivered from the "Snare of the Fowler," but peradventure our defeat will be avenged as thou sayest.

Doctor: Welcome Friends.

Enter a Captain, and a Sapper and Miner in sackcloth and ashes.

Doctor: What meaneth these sack bags and this refuse of the fire-grate; art thou indeed mourning in the tenderness of thine hearts for the loss of thine enemies? Away with such chicken-hearted promptings. Speak to us of victory.

Captain: Nay, Sire, but a dire defeat. The battle waxed hot, very hot, and surely we did struggle hard for the mastery-so hard that I did believe in mine own heart that we had won. Behold, we had horsemen, chariots, and volunteers, not a few. Our carriages were superfine, especially the carriages which did come from our ally the Colonel, even the Colonel of the Burnabyites. The attendants were dressed in blue and fine linen, their cockades did make a great show, and the people did flock to us as of yore. But the forces of the alien were more numerous than before, and their plan of battle did tell that they had better commanders than we. They were assisted by Israelites, by Levites, and an exceeding great multitude; even the rascally caucusites, those that did dwell in the Liberal Club-even these they did enlist and behold, they did press us very hard. Nevertheless, I thought in mine own heart that I had succeeded. I did visit the shrine of the "Waterloo Hero" after the battle, and while resting myself I did hear tidings of the result, and the people did begin to mourn with me, which made me exceeding wroth. Indeed I would not believe them, and rose from my couch and left my wine and went forth to quell the disturbance which had arisen. But, alas! the enemy had been too strong for us. Yea, they marshal near upon a hundred times seven more men than we did.

The Doctor: What! a hundred times seven.

The Captain: Yea, even so. They were beguiled by one named Wright. They did write their names upon the roll for Wright till they did get quite wrong. They also did support one named Mather, called by some a "pig jobber," and verily he hath smitten us as his menservants do pigs. Indeed, the people would not have us. The walls spoke out against us, and the horsemen and chariots, even the chariots of the Burnabyites, were of no avail. Yea, we have been defeated with great slaughter, never before have we been so beaten.

Sapper and Miner: Yea, never before have we been so beaten. The enemy did come upon us like a thousand of bricks, notwithstanding that I did treat them to fine words, and the Captain also. I do also hear that we have lost in the West.

Doctor: Let us mourn.

The Lawyer, a fine old English Gentleman, Captain, Sapper and Miner mourn, with a loud voice, led in their howlings by——

Doctor: A trumpet blast in the outer Court is heard, and the mourners rise. [Enter Quarter-Master Sergeant in a hurry.]

Doctor: Thou "Bruised Read," wherefore comest thou to torment in this hour of my adversity; seest thou not these friends!

 $Q.\ MS.:$ Yea, sire, I do; but I have one request to make? Doctor: Say it then.

Q. M. S.: This day have I done battle against the enemy in the West. I did get a long address written for me. I did engage birds of dark plumage; blue in their faces; yea, even blue crimson. I did visit all the places of Public resort. I did hold a grand carnival at the Blue Pig. I did engage carriages and horsemen, a great number, and did lead them to battle; but, alas! the people would not come out to fight openly. The enemy would not engage carriages nor horsemen; they would not come to the Blue Pig nor anywhere wheresoever. I could not meet them, but did sneak behind Ballot Boxes, and could not be got at. Therefore, we have not succeeded; but, I will fight another time, when the soldiers do come to the military centre which I have set up, and when the Military Tailoring hath become more profitable.

Doctor: Thou fool! Get thee hence, and quench thy smoking flax. Trouble us not in the hour of our distress.

 $Q.\ M.\ S.:$ Surely, I have not deserved such treatment as this. Give me something to heal my wounds?

Doctor: Give him a pill! Yea, a bolus.

Captain (to Doctor): Give him two pills, one for me and one for thee. Let him bind up his wounds with his own cloth.

Lawyer: Peradventure, he wanteth money.

Quartermaster-Sergeant: Oh, sire.

Doctor, Captain, Sapper and Miner, and F. O. E. G. (all together): Not a farthing shall he have. We have enough on our hands already. Let him be satisfied with the pills.

Quartermaster-Sergeant (taking the pills): And this is all. Of a truth, the Blandites and Prestonites would not treat me so. Surely I I did get round my banner 830 men and women.

Doctor: Were there then so many idiots in the district? Now cut your stick.

Exit Q. M. S.

[Enter Attendants and Messengers.]

B-N-T (Chief Messenger): Wherefore all this weeping and wailing in our camp? Surely we have done well to-day

Lawyer: We have indeed lost.

B-N-T: Do not look so crossly at me. Verily, I have done my best.

Captain: Nay, and the enemy doth rejoice in his camp.

Lawyer: Yea, and in the camp of the Caucusites.

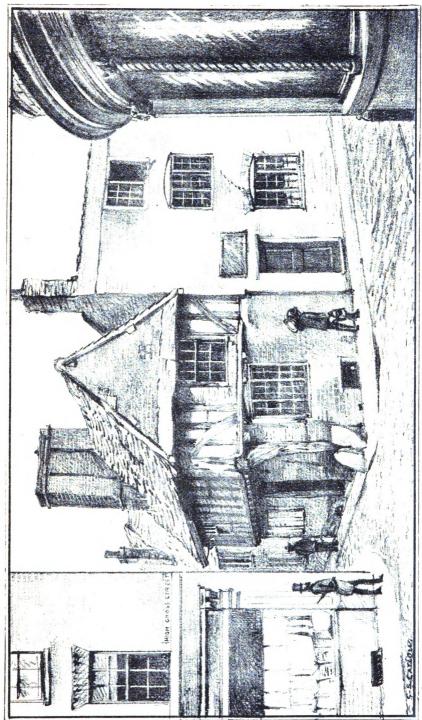
B-N-T: Verily, the people are perverse in their day and generation.

Doctor (wringing his hands): What shall we do? What shall we do? The enemy, emboldened by his success, will attack our sacred preserve—even the preserve of St. Martin's, and we shall be cast into outer darkne

All: Yea, we shall.

Doctor: Woe—woe is me—woe is all of us. The days of our cock-a-doodle doings are over. We are altogether undone. Jingo, our King, hath no place in this community. We are strangers to the people. What shall we do? (A pause.) I tell you what we will do. We will each send for a copy of the evening paper—even the Daily Mercury—and we will see what "Leicester Lad" sayeth of us. Peradventure, he may have some words of comfort for us. (They send for papers, which are brought in by a boy in buttons.) Ah, here is the page. Here "Leicester Lad," see, ah, fair youth, would that we had always followed thy advice. Then we should not have been in this dire trouble. Let us read. (They read, and ultimately separate, encouraged and almost persuaded to become Radicals).

The battle being lost, it may be that the General should have hung his head like a bulrush all the day, and walked softly ever since. That is not my Generalship. It is well to take punishment with a smiling face, and after a grand meeting on Election Eve of 3,000 ladies and gentlemen, as orderly as they were enthusiastic, to hear my last words in the Blue Boar Yard, there was no slight reason for my confidence that this defeat was no disgrace. What better could be done than to light up the torches, kill the fatted calf, let the ladies of the Ward enjoy a drop of rum in their tea, and then from 15 vears of age to 84, trip the light fantastic toe to the pum-pum of a piano or the sweep of "Pretty Dickey's" fiddle-bow? There was neither pledge of past support given, nor promise of future support exacted, and if I cannot enjoy myself in the comfortable society of from 60 to 150 ladies at such respectable houses as the Britannia, the Freeman's Arms and the New Found Pool, why then Recorder Merewether, Q.C. and M.P. is a wise man and I am-otherwise. But if Ward sociability is to be suppressed, shall we not be legitimately entitled to demand, that all the convivialities of political Clubs and Associations shall incontinently be submitted to the hari-kari or "happy dispatch?" I contend that it is a legitimate ambition on the part of a British citizen to seek to represent his fellows either municipally or imperially, and I hope in due season to renew a pleasant experiment.



RECENT BOROUGH AND COUNTY ELECTIONS.

It goes without saying that "in the season" politics in Leicester and Leicestershire run fairly lively. We have politicians by descent, politicians by temperament, politicians by religious association, and politicians by an "eye for the main chance." Such people keep their politics well in the foreground every year and all the year round, and are practically the leaders of their respective parties, unless there is in them more froth than robustness. Some nine months ago, Lord Beaconsfield's letter to the Duke of Marlborough sent Leicester into a political fever. The party banners were metaphorically hung on the outward wall. The Liberals deserve credit for, and naturally achieved victory by, their splendid organization. The Liberal Club, in Gallowtree Gate-with a membership of 1,000-is a perfect factory of fair public speakers, and sends out into the Wards not "oddments" but shoals of earnest, unpaid canvassers. The Liberal Association proper, under the Presidency of Mr. E. Clephan, and with a well-balanced Secretary such as Mr. Thomas Smith, works with a smoothness which is altogether admirable. The moderate sum of £486 covers the entire annual expenses of working, not even excluding conferences, lectures, public meetings, and a luncheon. The Executive Committee consists of the President, two Vice-presidents, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and Secretary; seven Ward secretaries, four representative members for each of the seven Wards, and 19 co-optative members, amongst whose names may be descried the big guns or "leading lights" of Liberalism. Besides this, there is a General Committee, formed of representatives of the seven Wards, to the number of 210-who, together with the Executive Committee, form the much criticised Caucus or (in round numbers) the Three Hundred, whose decrees seem to be as binding on Liberal consciences as the laws of the Medes and Persians were on those ancient Orientals. My advice to the Brothers of the Blue is to stop criticising, and begin imitating the successful tactics of the enemy. The facts subjoined seem to me to point to that conclusion.

For example, in the Municipal contest in 1878, only All Saints' Ward was contested, and with this result:—

Wilford (Liberal)	 	 	894
Almond (Liberal)	 	 	831
Gamble (Conservative)	 	 	640

History (names and figures excepted) repeated itself in 1880, when there was only one contest with like result. Regarding the contests of 1879, the Annual Report of the Liberal Association says:—

"Amongst local topics, the Municipal Elections on the 1st November, occupy a prominent place. Previously a single election took place in East Mary's Ward on the promotion of Mr. George Viccars to the office of Alderman. Mr. Robert Walker was nominated by the Liberals and Mr. Millican by the Conservatives. This election resulted in Mr. Millican gaining the seat by a majority of one. On the 1st November the Liberal party brought forward Mr. Robert Walker and Mr. Henry Lankester, against Messrs. Fowler and Crofts, the retiring members. After a well-fought contest, Messrs. Walker and Lankester gained the seats by good majorities. The numbers were:—

Walker (Liberal)	 	• •	 725
Lankester (Liberal)	 	• •	 686
Fowler (Conservative)	 		 639
Crofts, (Conservative)	 		 633

In West St. Mary's Ward, Mr. R. Read, jun., came forward as an Independent Candidate, but was defeated by a large majority; the numbers being:—

Preston (Liberal)	 		1900
Bland (Liberal)	 	• •	1631
Read (Independent)	 		830

In East St. Margaret's Ward, the most important contest took place, the retiring Conservative Members fighting to retain their seats with great determination. The Liberals were active, energetic, and unceasing in their labours, and gained a complete victory. The result of the poll was as follows:—

Wright (Liberal)	 	2034
Mather (Liberal)	 	2009
Richardson (Conservative)	 	1375
Duxbury (Conservative)	 	1314

"In all the contests," it is added, "the Liberal Club rendered great assistance to the Association and Ward Committees."

The Borough Parliamentary elections do not hold out much hope for Conservatives while they do not become the equals of their opponents in "activity, energy, and unceasing labours." I give the results complete from 1832 to 1880.

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Population .. 1831, 40,512; 1861, 68,056; 1871, 95,220. Electors .. . 1832, 1,769; 1868, 15,161; 1874, 17,310.
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N.B.—The above figures, it will be noted, take as a basis the first elections after the Reform Bills of 1832 and 1867, and the first election under the Ballot Act of 1872.

1832, December.	1835, January.
William Evans L, 1663.	Edward Goulburn C, 1484.
Wynn Ellis L, 1527.	Thomas Gladstone C, 1475.
J. W. B. Leigh C, 1266.	William Evans L, 1352.
-	Wynn Ellis L, 1314.
1837, At	agust.
Samuel Duckworth	L, 1816.
John Easthope	L, 1816.
Edward Goulburn	C, 1454.
Thomas Gladstone	C. 1453.
Mr. Duckworth appointed	l a Master in Chancery.
1839, M	Iarch.
Wynn Ellis	L, 1666.
C. H. Frewen	C. 1371.
1841, June.	1847, August.
Sir J. Easthope, Bart. L.	Sir Josh. Walmsley L, 1647.
Wynn Ellis L.	Richard Gardner L, 1602.
•	James Parker C. 1403.
	Election declared Void.
1848, August.	1852, July.
Richard Harris L.	Sir Josh. Walmsley L, 1673.
John Ellis L.	Richard Gardner L, 1673.
	James Wilde L. 1116.
	Geoffrey Palmer L, 1114.
1856, June.	On decease of Mr. Gardner.
John Biggs L.	
1857, March.	1859, April.
John Dove Harris L, 1618	John Biggs I., 1584.
John Biggs L, 1603.	Jos. W. Noble L, 1496.
Sir Josh. Walmsley L, 1440.	W. U. Heygate C, 1476.
	John Dove Harris L, 1397.
On death of Dr. Neble.	On retirement of Mr. Biggs.

1861, January.	1862, February.
W. U. Heygate C, 1596.	P. A. Taylor L.
John Dove Harris L, 1033.	
P. A. Taylor L, 977.	
1865, July.	1868, November.
John D. Harris L, 2295.	P. A. Taylor L, 7148.
P. A. Taylor L, 2199.	John D. Harris L, 6776.
W. U. Heygate C. 1945.	J. Baker Greene C, 2494.
1874, February.	1880, April.
P. A. Taylor L, 7408.	P. A. Taylor L, 10,675.
Alex. Macarthur L, 7283.	Alex. Macarthur L, 10,438
J. H. B. Warner C, 5614.	W. Winterton C, 4,186.
	J. H. B. Warner C, 3,820.

Maintaining that there is no preponderance of Liberals in the constituency to account for their preponderance at the ballot, one is driven to the conclusion that the Conservative leaders lack unity, organization, capacity and enthusiasm. The comfortable Conservative Club, now satisfactorily opened, with a membership little short of 1000, should be able to change all this, if they would, in the intervals of conviviality, devote themselves to the energetic propagation of constitutional principles outside the closed door through which the public cannot pass.

A crumb of Conservative comfort can be gleaned in turning to North Leicestershire. The representation of this division, was in 1832 and again in 1835 divided between a Conservative and a Liberal, but in 1837 two Conservatives were returned, and that party have succeeded in holding both seats ever since. There was a contest again in 1865, when Mr. Charles Hay Frewen stood on Independent principles, the state of the poll being at the close: -Lord John Manners, 2,307; Mr. Hartopp, 1,850, and Mr. Frewen, 1,605. In 1874, Mr. Hussey Packe, of Prestwold Hall, was a Liberal candidate against Mr. Clowes, but was defeated, the numbers being at the close of the poll:-Lord John Manners, 2,978; Mr. Clowes, 2.568; and Mr. Packe, 1,997. At the recent General Election, Mr. Hussey Packe came forward on behalf of the Liberals against Colonel Burnaby, Conservative; Mr. Clowes having retired, Mr. Packe was again unsuccessful, the numbers being: -Lord John Manners, 3,213; Colonel Burnaby, 2,999; and Mr. Packe, 2,674. Considering what the persistency of Mr. T. T. Paget has done in the other division, the men of the

North will do well to remember that eternal vigilance is the only means of maintaining a political stronghold.

Except in Mr. Paget's success in South Leicestershire, no Liberal has represented South Leicestershire since Mr. Edward Dawson in 1832. Until 1865, except in 1835, when Mr. Frewen Turner was returned, the representation was appropriated by the Halfords, Packes, and Curzons. 1n 1868, Mr. T. T. Paget had his first "try," with the following result:—Viscount Curzon, C—3,196; Albert Pell, C—3,111; T. T. Paget, L—2,861. Viscount Curzon, succeeding to the peerage, Mr. W. U. Heygate took his lordship's place, with 3,292 votes against 2,585 for Mr. T. T. Paget. The next two states of the Poll are subjoined in contrast:—

1874—February.	1880—April.
Albert Pell, C 3583	T. T. Paget, L 3685
W. U. Heygate, C 3269	Albert Pell, C 3453
T. T. Paget, L 2883	W. U. Heygate, C 3175

Remembering the hard and bitter words, not to mention physical violence, too common elsewhere, we of Leicester and Leicestershire may, on the whole, pride ourselves on the gentlemanly manner in which we carry out our political convictions.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

This new institution, which is "at home" every Friday evening, in the lecture-room of the Museum Buildings, is one which seems to me likely to produce "men of light and leading" in our local, political arena. Its birthday was Friday, 15th October, 1880, when it was modelled, as nearly as possible, on the pattern of the House of Commons, each member selecting the name of an existing constituency. Standing orders, &c., had been previously drawn up, and a Speaker elected in the person of Councillor Thomas Wright, who withdrew from contesting Northampton, in order not to split the Liberal party there; for which the party have remembered him by the presentation of a service of plate. It is almost a pity that his forensic eloquence was not utilised in the office of Attorney-General, but no doubt Mr. Wright aspires, some day, to be a Judge; and

some experience in the judicial, or, more properly, arbiterial, chair of the Leicester House of Commons may not prove to be "love's labour lost." At any rate, he has always fostered debating societies, and, though he is not now quite a young man, a good deal of pleasure is obtainable in such resorts. This Parliamentary Debating Society proposes to be a school of culture, in which embryo politicians, anticipating the time when they may find constituencies willing to receive their gratuitous services, shall be able to stand up in St. Stephens-not as "Endymion" did, with fear and trembling, but—as full-fledged Parliamentary debaters "to the manner born." If Mr. Wright succeeds in teaching the fledglings to use their wings with judgment, as well as noise and swiftness, I shall be one to get him up another service of plate-for I, too, am a fledgling of the Leicester House of Commons. Why, however, should there not be a Queen, or a King, as the case may be in real imperial life, to call a new Prime Minister to her or his Councils-and Privy Councillors to advise her or him, in the event of the resignation or impeachment of a Government? In fact, I want to know, if the choosing of a Premier by representative vote is not a rash rapprochement to Republicanism? Why not the Mayoress for the time being be the figurative Queen; or, in the event of a change of sex on the actual Throne, the Mayor be figurative King, and the idea of limited monarchy thus strengthened and fostered?

Well, the Ministry was formed, in some more or less binding way, and the names are herein preserved, in order to trace how these gentlemen mature, who now promise so well:—

CABINET.

First Lord of the Treasurer, Mr. S. Lennard.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. W. Chapman.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. H. Hackett.

Secretary for India, Mr. H. Holland Secretary for Colonies, Mr. W. Adams.

Secretary for War, Mr. Thos. Smith. First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. F. B. Weston. Minister of Commerce, Mr. J. B. Thorp.

Attorney General, Mr. A. H. Burgess.

Minister of Education, Mr. L. Staines.

President of the Council, Mr. G. H. Baines.

President of Local Government Board, Mr. W. W. Preston.

Postmaster-General, Mr. J. Cooper.

When the Cabinet had thus been settled, with the additions of Minister of Commerce and Minister of Education, which, though they do not exist in the real arena, probably may be improvements on our governmental system, a "Ministerial," and not a "Royal" message was read by the Speaker. The "Queen's English" thereof is quite robust, for the Ministry evidently feel that, if they do strenuously all they say so directly. there is no danger of a speedy "wrack of matter and crash of worlds." Turkey catches it hot, and so does the Indian deficit. The world is surveyed from Montenegro to Afghanistan and Basutoland to Erin's Green Isle, in plain, straightforward Anglo-Saxon: the only fear in my mind being that the Ministry show too much of their hands all at once to lead to judicious "legislation." The debates, however, have shown the fact much eloquence has been lying ingloriously mute around Leicester, which has now a field of useful exercise; and there is little doubt these debates will enlarge the area. correct the inaccuracy and refine the expression of political thought. The Conservatives, of course, are in a minority, but Mr. Edmund Amos, Chairman of Committees, and not a few of his coadjutors have some arrows in their controversial quivers. which may now and then let some light into prejudiced minds. Personally, my designation is, as it always must be, "independent." for as I could not in real life be the mere delegate of a constituency, so I keep an "open mind" on all questions, whoever may be their sponsors, until, after inspection on all sides, I can give a conscientious verdict according to the evidence.

FEMALE ASYLUM, THE NEWARKE.

This Institution I should feel pained to omit noticing, and I now do so briefly, though out of rotation. It stands at the bottom of the Newarke, opposite to the Trinity Hospital, and is a long white building with a depth of about 200 feet. founded in the year 1800, by the then famous Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev. Thomas Robinson, for the purpose of training orphans for domestic servants. There are at present sixteen girls and a Matron, supported by subscription. All subscribers, of half a guinea and upwards, have the privilege of nominating a candidate whenever a vacancy occurs, and candidates may be taken from any part of England. Washing and needlework are taken in on alternate weeks. All intending subscribers and well-wishers can communicate with the Hon. Sec., the Rev. J. C. Crawford, St. Mary's, Leicester, and can be shown over the building by the Matron. No girl is taken less than twelve or more than sixteen years of age.

ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

This Association, whose premises are at 86, High Street, is doing an unostentatious, but profoundly benevolent work. "The Committee" in the report for 1879. "believe that the blind should, as far as possible, be treated in the same manner as those who can see, and that one of the best ways of helping the majority of the able-bodied is to provide constant employment for them in suitable workshops, during the daytime, leaving them to return to their families in the evening. affords occupation for mind and body as well as companionship. Larger earnings also are possible than could be made at home, for they lose no time in providing materials, or selling their goods when made. Moreover, what they earn comes in regularly." The subscriptions last year were £126 17s. 6d., and legacies of £1,000 from the late Mr. William Adcock, of Syston; £100 from the late Miss H. Green; £50 from the late Mr. T. H. Thomson, of Leamington; £100 from the late Mrs. Brook,

of Enderby Hall; a Donation of £100 from Miss Johnson, of Knighton Fields: and other smaller sums. Bad trade has affected the receipts for work done, and, having a large stock on hand, invite a share only of public patronage; and they particularly point out "they do not wish to undersell other tradesmen or overcharge their customers, and that the articles sold are believed to be as good as those which are obtained elsewhere." In this way the lives of 122 of our fellow creatures, from whom the light of day is shut out, are made useful, comfortable, and not unfrequently happy in regard to both worlds, being read to at regular hours, and, where possible, taught to read. Committee are now in want of a portion of the funds necessary to complete "suitable workshops for the blind who are able and willing to work, with a retail shop in a good situation for business." The proper expenditure of any funds is beyond suspicion, when the composition of the Committee, which I subjoin, is understood:—President, His Grace the Duke of Rutland, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of the County. Committee: Messrs. G. E. Checkland, J. St. T. Clarke, M.B., W. Henry Ellis, Samuel Harris, William Harris, W. G. Hutchinson, H. Jarvis, T. H. Kinton, John Morley, G. H. Nevinson, Rev. G. Ray, Messrs. J. W. Wartnaby and A. Whitby. TREASURER: William Harris, Esq., Westcotes. Hon. Secretary: Samuel Harris. Esq., Westcotes Grange. Hon. Surgeon: J. St. Thomas Clarke, M.B. COLLECTOR: W. Porter.

THE COCOA-HOUSE MOVEMENT.

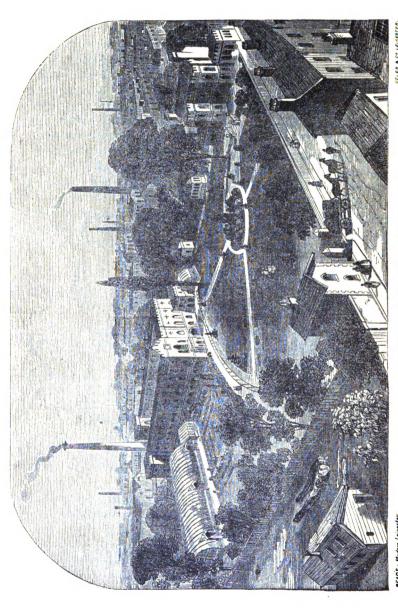
We may well cry, "Our fathers, where are they?"—when we think of such far-seeing, fraternal, and conscientious men as the late Mr. Edward Shipley Ellis. It seems to me that even he might take less pride in his achievements as Chairman of the Midland Railway, that ever leads the van in railway progress, or in his invaluable services to a cause with which I am not rapturously in love, as Chairman of the Leicester Liberal Association, or even his priceless aid in perfecting the educational system of the Wyggeston Boys and Girls' School, than he would in pioneering the Tea, Coffee, and Cocoa movement in the town

of Leicester, under the Midland system. A philanthropic institution, established on commercially profitable principles, is better adapted for the age we live in than any eleemosynary establishment. Financially and philanthropically the Cocoa-house Company is a success, and the most formidable advocate of temperance existing. It combats temptation to imbibe intoxicants by providing nutritious, comforting, and healthful beverages at the easy price of a penny a pint. A large basin of nourishing soup can be had at dinner-time for twopence, and various solids equally cheap; while there is no restriction on, but a positive invitation to, patrons to bring their own solids with them. brightness, and comfort characterise all the eight houses; papers and amusements are accessible; and anyone who has seen how the accommodation is enjoyed by workers of either sex from five to nine a.m., twelve to two p.m., and again in evening sociability, cannot but bid the Cocoa Company—God-speed!

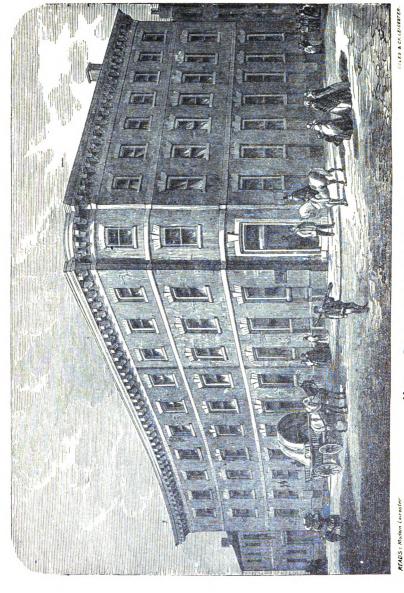
MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL PROGRESS.

Fifty years ago, the population of Leicester was but 40,000, and since then it has increased at the rate of 18,000 every ten years, so that the census of 1881 will probably record 130,000 souls living within the present Borough boundaries. The early staple trade of the town was the manufacture of hosiery, and there are many still living who remember the privations endured by the stocking-makers. With small earnings when employed and long-continued deficiency of work, added to the continuous deduction of "Frame rents" for the old narrow-gauged frames, the inhabitants were in the poorest of plights.

For some time, with a small beginning, a new industry had gradually assumed increasing proportions—the manufacture of boots and shoes upon a fresh principle, under the auspices of the energetic Crick family, who patented their inventions. By their skilful, persevering and judicious management, improvements were made from time to time, and the production so increased as to give employment to operatives of both sexes to the number of about 1,000, besides other unskilled persons as



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ordinary shoemakers on their own premises. For some years, the Cricks were the only producers of boots and shoes on the nailed or rivetting principles, and while one member of the family produced them, the other vigorously disposed of them throughout the length and breadth of the Kingdom. manufacture of the gussetted boots gave an impetus to another source of employment, by increasing the demand for elastic webs of a greater width and in much larger quantities, and the businesses of Boot and Shoe and Elastic Web Manufacturing have steadily increased until our streets are lined with palatial structures, in the shape of factories and warehouses, while, at meal hours, the streets are crowded with thousands of bustling operatives, comfortably clad, cheerful in face, and not lean of figure, being in the enjoyment of remunerative wages. of the employers have made massive fortunes, and a powerful impetus has been given to trade in general.

Amongst the leading firms in the Boot and Shoe trade are—Messrs. Stead & Simpson, Turner, Throne Crick & Co., Green & Kirkland, Snow & Bennett, E. Ellis & Co., and Preston & Sons. The excellent premises of the last-named firm are lithographically illustrated.

The inventor of the elastic fabric was Mr. Caleb Bedells, and the manufacture was originally started about 1846, developing with amazing celerity, the inventor being the guiding spirit and partner of the firm of Wheeler and Co., of the Abbey Mills. with warehouse in Southgate Street. They made all descriptions of the fabric for hosiers, glovers, and the shoe trade. the leading employes of the firm was the late Mr. Archibald Turner, who afterwards became the principal elastic web manufacturer of the country. His magnificent works at the Bow Bridge (of which I give a lithograph), were visited with admiration by connoisseurs and intelligent strangers from all parts of the world. It is only just to say that in all departments Mr. Turner was tasteful and grandly generous; so thorough even in his pastimes that, in the highest range of floriculture, his orchids took the best prizes even at the exhibitions of the Royal Horticultural Society in London. The successful business he left behind him is now conducted, under the style of A. Turner and Co., by Messrs. Taylor, Pegg, and Padmore, all of whom were

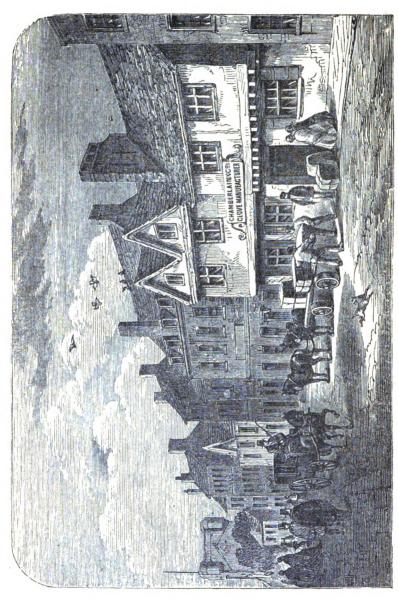
under the tuition of the late principal. The goods of Messrs. Luke Turner and Co., of Deacon Street, are also known in the market for excellence of make. Amongst others who have extensively carried on the manufacture of the elastic fabric have been Messrs. Hodges and Sons, Messrs. Thorpe, Messrs. M. Wright and Son, and Messrs. Jones and Co. In addition to their factories in Leicester, the two last-named firms have extensive establishments at Coalville, Attleborough and Quorn.

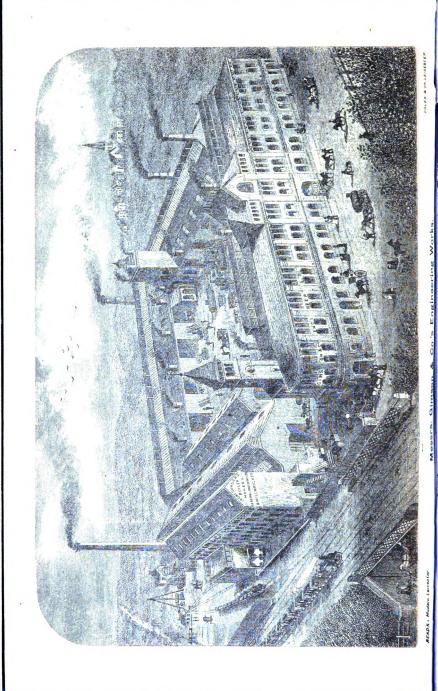
It is too late in the day to be necessary to describe the rise and progress, trials and triumphs of the hosiery trade; but it would be improper not to name the firms who, with their predecessors, have brought Leicester hosiery to its present state of acknowledged pre-eminence. But for the natural course of the seasons, by which hosiery is perhaps more influenced than any other manufacture, it would continuously and profitably employ an immense number of hands. Amongst the leading firms are to be found:-Messrs. R. Harris and Son: N. Corah and Son: Walker and Kempson; Walker and Son; C. Noon and Co.; Downing; Warner and Co.; Newby, Brown and Co.; S. Odames; Atkins Brothers: Davis. Moore, and Snowden; the two later have extensive factories at Hinckley; all of whom have palatial establishments which are a credit to Leicester. A very important preliminary department is that of wool-spinning, in connection with which may be mentioned the splendid mills of Messrs Thompson and Son; Rust and Co. (partners, Hobson, Barfoot, and Rust): Donisthorpe's, Messrs. Brierly and Co., Messrs. Pickard and Co., and Messrs. Ellis and Whitmore. spun by the leading Leicester spinners takes a high place in the markets of the world. Messrs. Stretton and Hutchinson (an engraving of whose premises I give) are successors to Messrs. Chamberlain and Co., Southgate Street. They manufacture woollen shirts and pants for the shipping trade; also Jerseys, Franklin frocks, boys' navy suits for seaside wear; and their Punto cloth is a special manufacture well-known to foreign buvers.

ENGINEERING: GIMSON AND CO.'S VULCAN WORKS.

Josiah Gimson deserves to be held up to posterity as a pattern of honesty, self-help and perseverance. During his







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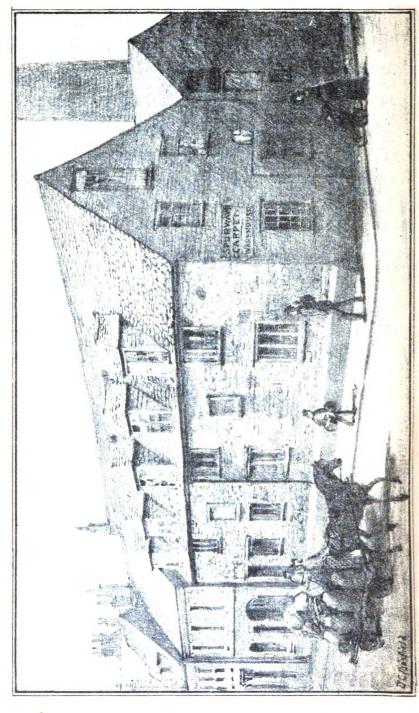
earlier struggles, the very elements warred against him, and he had the painful duty imposed on him of facing creditors whom he was unable to pay. He could, however, look them straight in the eye, as an honest man, and he not only faced them, but he faced his troubles manfully. When, in a few years, he had reaped some of the rewards that generally fall to the patient, judicious and upright toiler, the first thing that occurred to Josiah Gimson was to call his creditors together and pay them in full. His children will value more than even Mr. Gimson does that inscribed "silver cup," from the astonished and admiring creditors, who for once in their lives felt the truth of the poet's line that—

An honest man's the noblest work of God!

But my purpose is not to pronounce an eulogium, but to notice the splendid addition to the industries of Leicester-industries which, for the stability of the town, cannot be too varied-in Gimson & Co.'s Vulcan Works, where the energies of the firm and of their manager, Mr. Keay, are concentrated; all branch establishments being now abandoned. This shows that the worthy principal is not, in all cases, an enemy to centralisation. The Vulcan Works cover an area of 31 acres, and form a quadrangle, in the street named, as the works are, after the one-eyed heathen deity who controls the destinies of all workers in iron. They are on the south side of the main line of the Midland Railway from London to the North. Externally, the building is ornamental, but applied internally to some useful purpose; even the graceful clock tower and belfry being utilised as a staircase to the spacious offices. To stand on the end platform of the great workshop and witness shafts and wheels revolving by invisible means, while skilled workmen are quietly lathing, planing, drilling, tapping, and slotting, is quite bewildering to an untechnical visitor, but impresses that visitor perhaps more powerfully than one versed in the mysteries of engineering and the modern triumphs of man's ingenuity. In this immense workshop-200 feet long by 62 feet wide, and 46 feet from the floor to the ridge of the roof-engines and machinery are fitted The smithy is as unlike that of the "Village and erected. Blacksmith," which stood under the spreading Chestnut tree, as his forehammer to the powerful steam hammer, which could be adjusted to either flatten a bar of iron or crack a nut shell. The dimensions of the boiler shop are 384 by 20 feet, and the tower is 50 feet high, with a hoisting gear fixed to its summit used in the process of rivetting flues and shells of boilers; while all around one are all the most modern machines for planing, punching, rolling and drilling the plate used in the manufacture of boilers, girders and tanks. Throughout the workshops and foundry-the latter a building 180 feet by 62 feet-the work of lifting or removing heavy weights is accomplished by steam hoists and travellers. The otherwise unseen moving power is to be found in the boiler houses, where there are 1 boiler of 70 horse-power, 1 engine of 50 horse-power, and 3 other engines of 20 horse-power collectively. About 350 hands are regularly employed in this hive of industry in the manufacture of everything in engineering, iron-founding and machinery, for all trades and manufactures, from the most powerful engine or boiler to the largest or smallest requisites of the Boot and Shoe, Elastic Web and Hosiery Trades, or ornamental castings suitable for decorative art. Mr. Gimson has something to show for his 40 or 50 years of arduous industry, and in future generations if some one should inquire what he left to commemorate him, the inquirer will be taken to the Vulcan Works and answered - Si monumentum queris circumspice!

SCIENTIFIC DYEING AND CLEANING: JOHN SMITH, 52, HIGHCROSS STREET.

The large business successfully carried on by Mr. John Smith, was founded, in 1817, by his grandfather, of the same name, who was the introducer of garment dyeing. Shortly after the present proprietor succeeded to it, some twenty years ago, he found it necessary to build new works in St. Nicholas Street. In course of time, these also become too contracted for the rapidly-increasing trade, and about six years since Mr. Smith purchased his present premises and carefully adapted them to the requirements of scientific dyeing. It is a treat to witness the method and consequent order which reign throughout the establishment, from the booking offices forwards and backwards. The large dyehouse contains 30 coppers of the capacity of from 350 to 12 gallons, besides large vats, barks, and all the water in the coppers can be made to boil, on the coldest frosty morning, in the space of



Two large cleaning machines occupy the cleaning ten minutes. room, and the first process of drying is effected by self-acting hydro-extractors, by which the articles are practically dried in five minutes. The premises comprise, in addition to the departments already named, an extensive counting-house, offices and packingrooms, the following separate finishing-rooms:-For curtains. where hundreds of pairs can be finished daily; one each for silk and velvet; ironing; another for the steam-framing of stuff goods; one for the steam-pressing of gentlemen's clothes; one for cylindering stuffs, velveteens, &c. : one for hot-pressing piece goods by hydraulic and screw presses; one for stovecleaning; one for stove-colouring; one for stove-fumigating; and one for French cleaning. Besides receiving offices in various parts of the town, Mr. Smith has established 200 agencies throughout the kingdom, and in busy seasons turns out 2,000 Mr. Smith has made a systematic study of articles per week. the art and chemistry of colour, and, from what I have seen, can iustly claim to be the proprietor of the largest Fancy Dyeing, and French and Chemical Cleaning Works in the Midland Counties.

THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL AS A CARPET WAREHOUSE.

One's first thought at hearing of the Old Grammar School being turned into a Carpet Warehouse is to exclaim with the poet:—

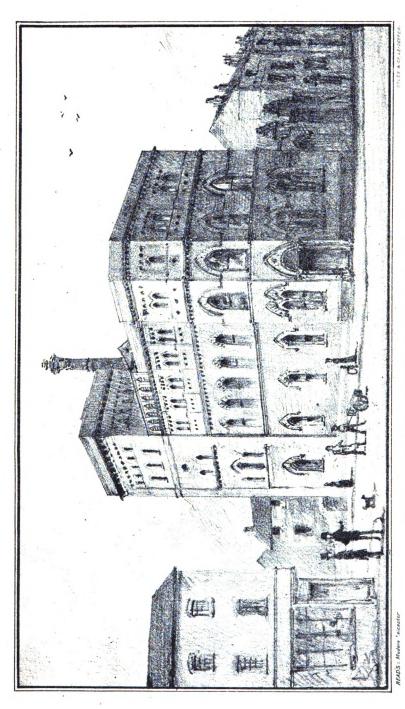
To what base uses may we turn at last.

The building itself is of no architectural pretensions, as the accompanying lithograph shows, but its stones are eloquent, and so are the carved oak beams which support its gabled roof. These are the materials of the decayed Church of St. Peter, sold by Queen Elizabeth to the Corporation in 1573 (for a purpose already noticed in writing of water supply) on condition that they would rebuild the Free Grammar School which Her Majesty had endowed with £10 a year in 1564, and Sir Ralph Rowlatt with £3 6s. 8d. in 1565. Various benefactions were given by Sir William Wigston, Thomas Wigston, the

Earl of Huntingdon, Thomas Hayne, &c.; but on the death of the late Rev. Richard Davies, B.D., in the second quarter of this century, no fresh Head-master was appointed, and the Free Grammar School, like every other good dog, had its day and died. No doubt it may have ornamented the insides of some young heads, but, on second thoughts, I shall not deem it a "base use" that it is now devoted to the display and sale of goods adapted to the ornamentation of the insides of the Leicester people's houses. In fact, the Old Grammar School is now the Warehouse of Mr. John Spurway, the well-known carpet manufacturer of Kidderminster. Here the tasteful lady about to furnish or refurnish will find a large display of elegant carpets, such as Axminster Royal, Velvet, Brussels (one special pattern entered at the Melbourne Exhibition), Oriental and Tapestry, and some specialities in floor cloths; the curious may see a gorgeous Kelim, or embroidered Indian hanging, and at different seasons Turkish and Indian embroidery of great value and beauty, done by the nimble fingers of some houri of a Sultan's or at least a Pasha's harem. Whether from a historical, a commercial, or an inquisitive point of view, the Old Grammar School will repay a visit.

MESSRS. EVERARD, SON AND WELDON'S BREWERY.

The fine building in Southgate Street belonging to the firm, would, in ancient days, have been the castellated keep of some predatory baron, but in our peaceful times is devoted to the useful purposes of malting and brewing; while the lofty and almost romantic square tower is of the greatest practical advantage in elevating or lowering goods received or delivered. The processes of malting and brewing are carried on in this establishment with all modern appliances, according to what has come to be termed "the Burton system." There is a cold-water tank on the roof of the building, covering the entire area, and from this cold water is conducted to every part of the establishment; in particular feeding the hot-water tank, which again communicates with the huge mash-tub in which the malt is mashed. When this process has been completed, the "wort" is conveyed to the



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floor below, into a copper, where it is boiled. From the copper the liquid is carried into the "hop back," and, leaving the hops, passes in succession into the "cooler," the "refrigerator," and thence into the "fermenting squares" below. On this floor the whole malt is stored, and when it has passed through the grinding machine, the ground malt is elevated to the top storey and fed into the "mash tub" already mentioned, to pass through the process described. The upward road by which the malt ascends is humorously called "Jacob's Ladder." On the same floor, where the whole malt is stored, there is a dark but capacious apartment called the "hop-room." The darkness is necessary to the preservation of the hops, which are in large quantity, and emit a powerful but not unpleasant aroma. From the fermenting "squares" already mentioned, the liquor is, in due season, gravitated into "union casks," each holding 170 gallons, where the process of fermentation continues. Thence, at the proper time, it passes down into a huge vessel, on the floor below, known as a "racking square," and thence it is racked into casks or barrels, which are taken down to the cellars. On the ground floor there is a neat ten-horse power engine named the "Victoria," used for pumping water out of the "refrigerator" to cool the "wort." The ample cellarage beneath is of the same area as the main building and yard. The cellarage is altogether of a perfect description, well lighted by gas, and permeated by passages in every direction. On another part of the premises there is an efficient cooperage, where the casks and barrels of the firm are carefully made and repaired. Near by the casks and barrels are cleansed on a thorough system. The fine stables and sensible stable arrangements are calculated to secure the health and comfort of the large number of fine horses belonging The physical appearance of the employes indicates to the firm. the best of treatment and a condition of robust health not excelled by those of Bass and Co., or Barclay and Perkins. may be mentioned that malting is carried on in one part of the building, but the firm have also malt-houses in many parts of the town. In conclusion, the Messrs. Everard, Son and Weldon do a large family and a fair wholesale trade; they have skilfully maintained and extended the fame of Leicester ale; and I can only wish my townsmen would less and less "mix fiery and rebellious liquors in their blood," and enjoy, in moderation, the honest English beverage of the Southgate Street Brewery.

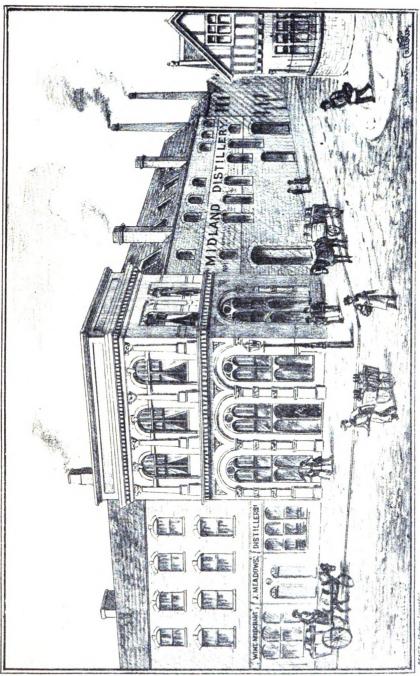
A few leading tradesmen in other branches deserve passing notice, both for the extensiveness of their businesses and architectural excellence of their buildings:—

Messrs. Stafford, Sons and Oswin.

The stranger arriving in Leicester by rail is at once struck by the handsome proportions of this establishment which faces the Station, Campbell Street, and Trinity Street, and from the abounding metaphorical statuary could not be blamed if he supposed it to be a School of Art. The firm (of which Alderman Stafford is the principal) are cigar-manufacturers on a large scale, giving steady employment to very many hands, many of them girls. They are also very largely engaged in the importation and exportation of cheese, especially, hams and other provisions, doing business on an extensively and in an honourable manner all over the world.

Messrs. Roberts and Roberts.

This is also a pattern establishment, having handsome premises in the Market Place, Stores under the Corn Exchange, and also stores and stabling for thirty horses in Marble Street. as well as offices and depots in London and at Liverpool. They are wholesale grocers and provision merchants, and employ seven travellers in as many separate districts, and seventy employes are constantly engaged in the despatch of goods. Their stock of cheese here is chiefly Leicestershire Cheddars and Stiltons, with, of course, a proportion of American; but at Liverpool the stock of the last-named is very large, as they frequently send direct from there to save extra freight to their customers. They also keep a large stock of English and American lard in Leicester, but to the latter the remark regarding American cheese equally applies. In addition to a superb array of groceries, &c., there is a large stock of American bacon, but by far the greater portion of the latter never sees Leicester at all, being sent from Liverpool direct. The firm grinds its own spices, pepper, and saltpetre, rice, &c., on the premises, so as to be secure from adulteration.



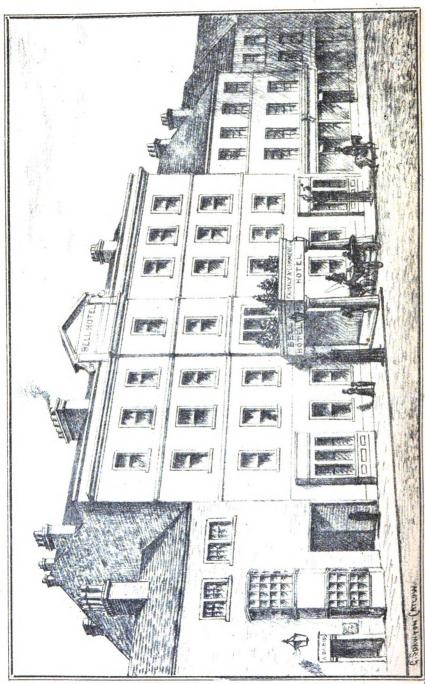
Two other firms engaged in the cheese and cigar business are worthy of mention, viz.:—Messrs. Emberlin and King, and Messrs. Swain and Latchmore.

The gratifying, not to say enormous, success of business outside the staple trades, where labour is extensively employed, is a good indication that Leicester is commercially sound at the core.

LOCOMOTION, AND INNS AND HOTELS.

WATER ON THE BRAIN OF LEICESTER.

HOUGH not liable to be attacked by a gold fever, an oil fever, or a cotton fever, as some other lands, or so liable to be re-attacked by a railway fever as we have been in the past; perhaps none of these fevers, within a similar area, was more virulent than the "Navigation" fever which excited Leicester, some 90 years ago. The inhabitants, according to Throsby, went wild over the idea of forming connections through wide-spreading arms of water which would enable them to mutually send and receive merchandise between the Humber and the Mersey, the Trent and the Thames, and the intermediate country so productive in Coal, Lime, Slate and Stone, as well as agricultural produce and manufactures. The Loughborough or Soar Navigation preceded the excited period by some years, and gave access from Loughborough, by the Soar, to the Trent, opening direct communication to Gainsborough and Hull on the East, and to Liverpool, through the Grand Trunk, on the West. The other local canals, singularly enough, all date from 1791 to 1810; the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal, through Market Bosworth, to a junction with the Coventry Canal; the Leicester and Melton Mowbray from the Soar, near Syston, to Oakham; the Leicester Navigation from the Loughborough Canal, to a junction with the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal; the latter commencing near the West Bridge, proceeding in a winding course by Market Harborough to Long Buckby, in Northamptonshire; while the northerly extremity of the Vale of Belvoir is traversed by the Nottingham and Grantham Canal. The traffic-slow-going though it may be-is enormous, and while thankful for rail-



ways, let us not be unthankful for canals, which, like coasting steamers, may have prevented railways from raising freights to an extortionate figure. Let me here record my thanks—and I hope the thanks of each of my readers—to our townsman, Mr. George Smith, of Coalville, the noble philanthropist, who first emancipated the brick-yard children from inhumanity, and then brought the canal-boat children within the range of educational civilization. On these canals, you may see in all simplicity the kind of public-house accommodation, as far as the houses are concerned, provided in the Inns at the beginning of this century.

COACHING AND COACHING HOUSES.

Whether the fault is or is not John Ruskin's, there is a strong tendency to romanticism—to eschew railways, steam-boats and beaten tracks, and explore nature, or make love, in a comfortable "Phæton" or a yacht with "white wings," a la William Black. Even the aristocratic leaders of bon ton have gone back for fashionable pastime to the ancient business of coaching. Nay, it is veritably stated there is more than one Jehu of noble descent engaged for profit in tooling some few of the four-in-hands that still run for the real accommodation of genuine travellers. Coaching was not a fashionable luxury in the days when Dick Turpin rode through Leicester to York, or despite the delight of winding horns, plunging steeds, and undeformed views of rural scenery, it would never have lasted until pushed out of the way by marching improvement.

The first Hackney coach in Leicester was started on 2nd December, 1793, by Thomas Pettifer, junr., and William Whitehead. It stood near the "White Hart," on the Coal Hill, and was announced as a large and commodious coach, carrying six persons and furnished with a pair of able horses.

It is 120 years since stage-coaches were started, and the advent of mail-coaches took place five years later. In 1794, when the "Three Cranes" was offered for sale, the stock included 27 chaise horses and six chaises.

In April, 1794, T. Willson, B. Levi, G. S. Benton, H. Holland, and J. Ella and Co., announced a series of coaching

services with Leicester head-quarters at "Mr. Spooner's, the Bell Inn," called in a second advertisement the "Blue Bell." Starting from the Bell at eight o'clock in the evening, one coach was promised to reach "The Swan, Lad Lane, London," at two the next afternoon. Inside single fare was £1 8s., outside 14s. Setting out from London, the same evening, at 8.50, Leicester would be reached for dinner next day, to sleep at Derby that night, and proceed on the second morning to Buxton and Manchester. So on in succession.

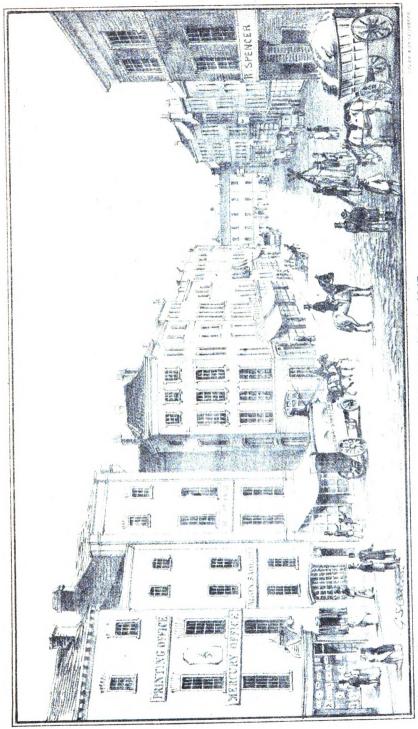
From the "Three Crowns Inn," Leicester, the June following, William Bishop advertised that "Mr. Welby King, at the George Inn, Loughborough, and Mr. Thomas Hill, at the Bell Inn, Harborough," having "taken a great deal of pains to make known" that he had given up the posting, he (Mr. Bishop) had long known the Bull's Head at Loughborough and the Swan's at Harborough, kept better horses than either of his traducers. But Mr. Bishop added a funny P.S., that he could supply the public with fine Stilton cheeses—also mourning-coach and hearse on reasonable terms at the "Three Crowns."

Welby King and T. Hill, it appears, were at the time making the "White Hart," Leicester, their head-quarters at one end, and posting to and from their own houses at Loughborough and Harborough, with, in their own opinion, "neat post chaises, able horses, and careful drivers."

King and Cooper, the new lessees of the "Three Cranes," gave their opening dinner on Tuesday, 11th November, 1794. So particular were they that no patron in see or in posse should feel slighted, that at the close of a general, all-embracing invitation, they placed this special note:—"We hope no gentleman will think it a mark of inattention should an omission of cards take place, but consider the above a sufficient invitation."

From February, 1795, the Royal mail and a new coach, upon an improved construction, were announced at the "Three Crowns" by Messrs. Bruce and Bishop—the latter, no doubt, being the advertiser already referred to. The routes taken were Leicester to London; Leicester to Nottingham, Sheffield, and Halifax.

At this time, the "White Lion," the "White Hart," the "Saracen's Head," and the "Black Bull," were the rendezvous of officers recruiting for the Royal Navy.



Not being able, on account of space, however much I might like, to trace the course of coaching and coaching houses, year by year, I must leap the intervening period until 1805. In the autumn of that year, B. Smith, formerly of the "Full Moon," had taken to the "Old Three Cranes," and "White Hart," and these houses, along with B. Pettifer's "Blue Bell Inn," had become the head-quarters of "Bruce and Co.'s Regular Coaches." The London fare was now reduced to £1 1s. inside, and 12s, outside, and the coach left the "Three Cranes" every evening at six. Every morning the "Light Defiance" left the "Blue Bell," through Welford, for Northampton and Newport; and the "Cornwallis" three times a week in the afternoon and three times a week in the evening, through Harborough, for Northampton, &c.

In two years more, the "Cornwallis Coach" left the "Blue Bell" at 7 in the evening for London, arriving at 2 next day; and left London at 9 o'clock next morning, arriving at Leicester at 4 on the following morning, on the way to Manchester to meet the Coaches from the North. The fares from Leicester, competition having apparently stopped, then were raised:—Inside to London, £1 5s.; Outside, 14s. Inside to Manchester, £1 15s.; Outside, 18s.

A tradition of rivalry is current among Jehus—that, in August, 1808, the Patriot, carrying six passengers (driven to Loughborough by Thomas Pettifer, and to Nottingham by Simpson), left Leicester at 7.50 and arrived in Nottingham at 12.10; and that the Defiance, carrying 13 passengers (driven to Loughborough by William Pettifer, and to Nottingham by B. Bower), arrived at Nottingham two minutes before the Patriot.

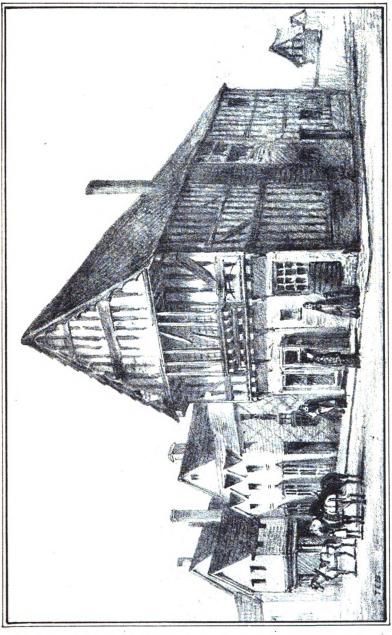
The above will give sufficient indication of Coaching in the olden time, and to what houses travellers chiefly resorted. But though the iron-horse has put out of joint the nose of the natural equine, it will be seen that not a few of the Old Inns by changing front—and in such cases as the Stag and Pheasant and the Bell running 'buses to and from the Railway Station—still live a vigorous life amongst the New Inns. Before quitting this part of the subject, I may be allowed to quote from Dickens' All the Year Round, of April 25, 1874, a fresh rendering of the tradition relating to

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THE OLD BLUE BOAR.

On his way to Bosworth, "Richard brought with him (being no doubt a bad sleeper, and, as we are told by Hall and Sir Thomas More, troubled with ghastly dreams), his own bed. a huge gilded tent-like structure, with carved panelled back, two carved posts, a flat corniced roof, and a boarded bottom. It was left at the White Boar, tradition says, when Richard marched on to Bosworth, expecting to return that night victorious, and it remained there as a town show for 200 years. There is a curious story about it, still extant in Leicestershire. and undoubtedly reliable. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the landlord of the Inn (after Bosworth re-christened the Blue Boar), fitted up Richard's bed for real use, and one day his wife making it hastily shook the old ricketty structure, upon which an old gold coin rolled out on the floor. The woman upon this narrowly examined the old bed, opened up the wooden bottom with a chisel, and found, to her surprise, 300 gold coins of the date of Richard the Third and earlier. This was probably part of the King's treasure hidden there till his return, or forgotten in the hurry of starting for Bosworth. The landlord, Clarke, prudently concealed his good fortune, but rapidly grew rich, and in the space of a few years became Mayor of Leicester. At his death, his rich and fat widow continued to carry on business as before, but she soon came to a bad end. Some thieves tempted one of the maid servants to help to rob her. The rascals came as guests and carried off some horse-loads of valuables, leaving the ground strewn with articles. Mrs. Clark trying to raise an alarm, the maid thrust her fingers down her mouth and choked her. The maid was found guilty and burnt alive for this, and the seven men were hung in 1613. A servant of the Inn afterwards bought the bed, cut off the feet to make it fit in a low room, and removed it to Redcross Street, where it afterwards came into the hands of Mr. Alderman Drake.

The Blue Boar, formerly in Norfolk Street, is now in Southgates, Mr. H. Southam being the proprietor. An illustration of the present house may be seen in the plate of the residence of the late Joseph Underwood, Esq. An illustration



is also given of the "Saracen's Head," the internal brightness and comfort of which Host Billings presides over with genial and gentlemanly dignity.

TRAMWAYS.

It is quite a century since the idea of railed ways-vide the Journal of the period—was first propounded in this locality with the object of increasing the power of traction by decreasing the resistance of the wheels. Before the end of the century the idea was practically applied in collieries to the utter astonishment of gaping crowds, who could not realise how it was a horse, by such simple means, and without extra punishment, could draw a quadrupled load. The same idea, only immensely improved, has returned to practical work in our town within the last ten years, after travelling all over and being adopted throughout the Continents of Europe and America. That my history of the Tramway movement in Leicester may be precise, I once more appeal to the Town Clerk's invaluable repository of municipal facts. In 1872, two contending Tramway Companies coveted possession of the area of Leicester, and applied for the consent of the Corporation, without which Standing Orders could not have been passed. The preference was given to the Company of which Mr. Nelson, of Leeds, was the solicitor, and Mr. Kincade, of London, was the advising engineer. This Company consented to pay the Corporation a sum of £500 for the concession, and entered into an agreement, dated 20th February, 1873, which provided that the cars to be used should be subject to the approval of the Corporation—that the lines might be used by the Corporation during the night time for sanitary purposes—power to the Corporation to acquire the undertaking in twelve years, on terms to be settled by arbitration—Corporation to be entitled to take one-half of any surplus profits after 121 per cent., and provided for balance-sheets being submitted to the Corporation and books inspected. A Provisional Order was obtained (subsequently confirmed by Act of Parliament), which authorised the construction of lines on the Belgrave, Humberstone, and London Roads; but as the whole of the provisions of the agreement had not been inserted by the Board of Trade in the

Provisional Order, a subsequent agreement (dated 29th August, 1872) was executed, ratifying the terms of the former agreement. The Belgrave Road was first taken in hand, and it was completed and opened for traffic on the 24th December, 1874; the Humberstone Road was opened on the 23rd March, 1875; and the London Road on the 14th August, 1875, on the occasion of which the members of the Council were taken over the line in cars, and afterwards invited by the Directors to a luncheon at the Masonic Hall. In 1876, the Company gave notice of an intended application to Parliament for powers to extend the London Road line, and to construct lines on the Aylestone Road and along Church Gate, Sanvy Gate, and over the North Bridge-to dissolve the Limited Company, and to re-incorporate the Company, with an extended capital. The Corporation gave their consent to the Bill, on condition that their rights and powers should be fully saved and applied to the extensions. having been assented to, the Act (in which were incorporated the whole of the special arrangements with the Corporation) passed in due course. The London Road line was soon afterwards extended, and the laving down of the two other lines authorised was proceeded with, and the one on the Aylestone Road was opened for traffic on the 7th June, 1878, and that along Church Gate and over the North Bridge, on the 29th August, 1878. The General Tramways Act, 1870, provides for the streets and roads between Tramway lines, and for eighteen inches on both sides thereof, being maintained by and at the expense of Tramway Companies. The total Share Capital of the Company, as authorised by the Act of 1877, is £100,000, and the Loan Capital £24,000; and the present Directors are Mr. William Barfoot (Chairman), Mr. Clement Stretton, Mr. Joseph Crisp Clarke, Mr. Daniel Busby, Liverpool; and Mr. William Turton, Leeds. The balance-sheets have been regularly delivered to the Corporation, and show the undertaking to be a successful one, although the Corporation have not as yet become entitled to any share of surplus profits. So writes our respected Town Clark, Mr. John Storey. For my own part, I have no desire to see the Corporation participating in the profits of a medium of such great convenience. But the drivers and conductors might well be slightly increased in number, so that they should not be worked so many hours

a-week, nor yet compelled all the week to take their meals, especially dinner, so uncomfortably while on duty. before raising their dividend, so as to make the Corporation step in, the Directors-all of them public-spirited men-might well consider the advisability of rnnning more penny cars. feel sure that, like penny postage, the lowering of fares would not merely cover the increased expenditure on horse-flesh and wages, but materially enhance the profits. At present, the car service on the various roads is every 10, 12, or 15 minutes each way as announced, and the chief grumbling question I have heard asked is-Why should the residents of Stoney Gate and of Belgrave be entitled to remain half-an-hour longer in town at night than those of the North, of Avlestone Park, and of Humberstone, who enjoy entertainments in town quite as much as the former? The cars are commodious, the horses of a superior type (their stables being model establishments), and the whole concern is and has been since its conception under the experienced and energetic management of Mr. George Roberts, late of the Liverpool Tramway Company.

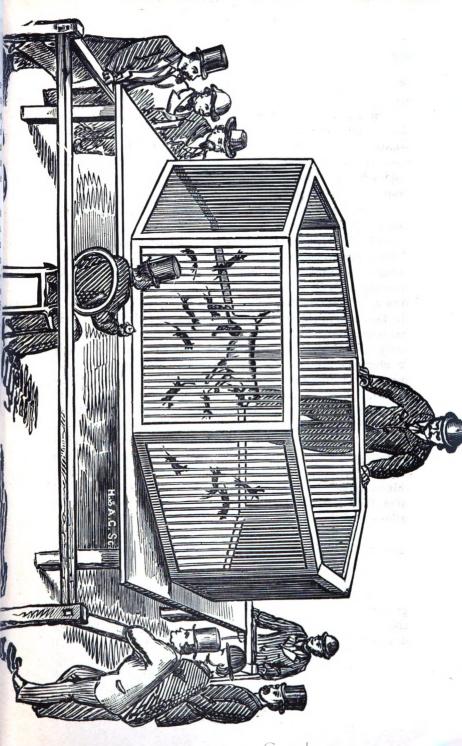
BICYCLING.

The Journal announced, in 1793, the exhibition to astonished eyes of a self-propelling carriage, which was to do away with cruelty to horses. The mechanism was not explained by the chronicler, who, in those days, appeared to trust more than newspapers usually do-to the mental and perceptive powers No doubt, however, the self-propelling carriage was of readers. an early tricycle, machines which, in our own day, have passed through many varying phrases; both hand-driven and footdriven, working with as great difficulty as is reported of the treadmill, running easily or positively, on the slightest incline. running away with the rider. There is a kind of tricycle made now-a-days that, it seems to me, I might manage not to fall off, but I cannot claim the courage or rashness to attempt to sit on the top of an enormous spider-wheel with a baby spider running behind it. Nevertheless, I admire the daring of those who do; nor was it surprising that the first modern steel bicycle should have created some excited curiosity. Mr. J. Walker, an excaptain of the Leicester Bicycle Club, was one of the first to ride in Leicester, and there was quite a stir whenever he got about. The people naturally wondered how such light and feathery spokes could bear the weight of a grown man. But even the lightness then is not what it is now; for, since the improvements of a few years past, a racing machine of the present day may weigh less than thirty pounds.

There are three Bicycle Clubs in Leicester, the largest being the Leicester Bicycle Club, numbering 50 members. These have their annual sports and soirces, and some have won a great many prizes from all parts of England. An exhibition of these prizes forms a leading attraction of the soirces. Leicester possesses two of the best bicycle grounds in England, the Aylestone and the Belgrave Road; on both of which some of the best riders in England, not to ignore the plucky Frenchman. have competed. When the competitors are well and distinctively dressed, a contesting spin on the spider-wheel is nearly as pretty as a horse race. Parr is one of the largest manufacturers in Leicester, and his are the machines used by the L. B. C. I quite appreciated the sports held on 6th September. 1880, for the benefit of the Infirmary, which were originated by Mr. Major, of the Mercury, and Mr. J. P. Greaves, of the L. B. C. I hope a demonstration for the same beneficent object may be an annual event. It must be a deliciously bracing thing to skirt the country, at the rate of 10 to 15 miles an hour, astride a steed that needs no baiting; and no doubt this mode of locomotion will last so long as there are sturdy fellows who have no dread of broken limbs or "gravel rash."

RAT-PIT.

On the other side is a fine wood-cut, which gives a clear representation of the rat-pit of Mr. Tarry, in Soar Lane. The sport is too well-known to need description, and is patronised by dog-fanciers from the nobleman down to the nailer.



MAYORS' FEASTS: OLD AND NEW.

Perhaps nothing will more effectually show the "sweeter manners" which the gradually-refining influence of the past two or three centuries has produced in municipal high places, as well as lower down, than a comparison of Mayors' Feasts, past and present. Leicester—as will be seen from my notes on amusements-popularly enjoyed the cruel sport of bear-baiting, and the Corporation let a "Bear Garden," for which the Treasurer's accounts show that an annual rent of 20d. was received. The sport, however, was not always confined to the "Garden," nor yet only patronised by assemblages of the "residuum," as Mr. Bright, with unnecessary severity, has styled the poorer and "most numerous" classes. When his Worship, the Mayor for the time being, annually entertained his guests, he took care to aid the digestion of the more solid food and prepare his convivial comrades for the elevating delights of "banquet" or dessert, by clearing the hall and baiting a bear. Numerous entries are traceable in the Corporation accounts of payments to the masters of the savage ceremonies or "bearwards." Two of these are noticed by Mr. William Kelly, namely:-In 1580 a reward of 4s. to "two bearwards at the Mayor's dinner;" and in 1582, 7s., in addition to a collection, to the Mayor's (Sir Christopher Hatton) man and the Earl of Huntingdon's man as "bearwards," at a Mayoral dinner given by the jovial Sir Christopher, who was not only "famous for his dancing," but kept a bear-baiting establishment in connection with his residence. That our ancient Mayors were not stingy in their catering will be evident from the following extract from a bill of fare of the feast in 1680, given by the then Mayor, Mr. Walter Hood. I reproduce it, with its quaint spelling:-

FIRST CORSE.

THE FIRST TABLE IN THE HALL.

THE FIRST MESS.

A coller of brawn.
A dish of fish.
Venison pasty.
Choyne and turkey.
Hams_and pullets.

Mince pyes.
Grand sallet.
Rost geese.
Venison pasty.
Tongues and elders.

THE SECOND MESS.

Boares head.

A dish of fish.

Choyne and turkeys.
Boyld venison.

Mince pyes.

Grand sallett.

Rost geese.

Venison pasty.

Tongues and elders.

THE THIRD MESS.

A coller of brawn. Grand sallett.
A dish of fish. Mince pyes.
Choyne and turkeys. Rost geese.
Boyld fowl. Venison pasty.

Tongues and elders.

The above was also served on "the second table in the hall, the first and second tables in the parlour, and the table in ye chamber." Here the bear-baiting would come in, and then would follow:—

THE SECOND CORSE.

FOR YE LONG TABLE.

THE FIRST MESS.

A dish of wild fowl. Ducks.

A dish of lobbstars. Ham and tongues.

A dish of pulletts. Tarts.

Sturgeon. Rabbetts.

Sturgeon. Rabbetts. Collerd pigg. Custerds.

THE SECOND MESS.

Wild fowl. Pulletts.

Sturgeon. Warden and puffs. Collerd beef. Ham and tongues.

Cold pye. Rabbetts.

Custerds.

THE THIRD MESS.

Pulletts. Rabbetts. Wardens and puffs. Ducks. Collerd pigg. Custerds.

This dose was repeated on all the other tables already enumerated. One is fain to admit that the intermediate excitement of a bear-baiting to shake down the "First Corse" was not an unneeded alterative previous to the "Second Corse." Let us hope that the liquid indulgence which followed "dessert', was not such a "heavy wet" as characterised a subsequent banquet,

when the Mayor of the year and the Duke of Grafton, equally helpless, clung to each other and were helped out of the dining-hall. Mr. Mayor Walter Hood could not have saved much out of the £100 granted to keep up the dignity of the office. Subsequent Mayors were less generous, and disused the feast on the plea that improper people obtruded themselves on the company at dinner; but Throsby shrewdly remarks that a more cogent reason may be assigned, for "feast or no feast, the receipt is the same from the public purse."

In the "Rule Britannia" days of 1805, the anniversary feast of the Corporation was held at the Town Hall, on Thursday, 21st November. A sumptuous dinner, served up in two courses, consisting of every rarity in season, was given by William Parsons, Esq., Mayor. T. Babington, Esq., and S. Smith, Esq., members for the Borough, Lord Maynard and many county gentlemen honoured Mr. Mayor with their company; an elegant transparency of the late gallant Admiral Nelson was placed at the upper end of the hall; many excellent and appropriate songs and toasts were given, and the festivity of the day was kept up with great spirit and conviviality until a late hour.

As a fairly representative modern contrast, I select the dinner given by the late Mr. Charles Harding, on Friday, 5th February, 1875, in the fourth month of his Mayoralty, to nearly 200 guests. The County authority had granted the use of the The decorations had been entrusted to Mr. Assembly Rooms. J. E. Issitt, of Granby Street, and corridor, staircase and banqueting-hall were gay with festoons, wreaths, and Royal devices of flowers and flags; agreeably interspersed by Sergeant Atkinson, then of the Militia, with martial stars in bayonets, ramrods and sabres, the armour of Trinity Hospital, and the battle-axes formerly used at old, chartered fairs; while a gas-illumined V.R. blazed on the exterior. The appearance of the tables, as well as their luxurious burden, reflected credit on the purveyor. Mr. M. A. Cook, of the Bull's Head, Market Place. Mr. Charles Harding's menu, read in the light of Mr. Walter Hood's "corses," will be sufficient commentary on the progress of the science of gastronomy. It is thus recorded in the papers of the day:-

BILL OF FARE.

Soups.-Mock turtle, hare and Julienne.

Fish.—Fillets of sole a la Harvey, turbot, salmon and lobster sauce.

Entrees.—Sweetbreads, mutton cutlets, currie, oyster patties, and stewed pigeons.

Removes.—Quarters of lamb, saddles of mutton, sirloins of beef, fillets of veal, turkeys, roast and boiled, ducks, tongues, chickens, asparagus, peas, and sea-kale.

Second Service.—Pheasants, wild ducks, leverets and, partridges.

Entrements.—Sauflet puddings, creams, jellies, pastry, and blanc mange.

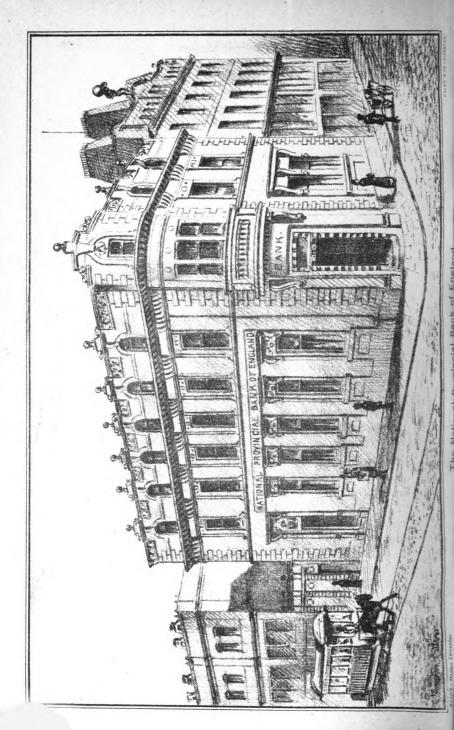
Dessert.

Thus, though the late Mr. Walter Hood bounteously filled the stomachs of his guests in 1680 with strong meat fit for men, he did not tickle their palates as Mr. Charles Harding did those of the gentlemen whom he gathered around his board in 1875; and certainly, if each individual dish at the latter banquet had been set down (as the now three hundred years forgotten Rev. Mr. Andrews, by his carefulness, has enabled me to publish a scrap of the long list of the former), the length of the nineteenth century bill of fare I have no doubt would have borne the bell. Then think of the company Mr. Harding's centripetal force had drawn towards him. On his right sat Sir F. T. Fowke, T. T. Paget, Esq., Rev. H. J. Jenkins, William Kempson, Esq. (ex-Mayor), and the Hon. and Rev. A. Byron; and on his left the Mayor of Derby, the High Sheriff (E. Warner Esq.), Sir Archdale Palmer, E. S. Ellis, J.P., and Dr. Shaw. One could not glance around without the eye lighting on a gallant array of Military Officers, on the cream of the Medical Profession, on two whole benches of J.P.'s and Aldermen, an army of Town Councillors, a pair of Magistrates' Clerks, a couple of Chief Constables, and a free sprinkling of clerical salt from a Dean down to a leading Dissenting Minister. In such company wit would flow with wine, while the aroma of the one and the sparkle of the other would be toned and tempered by wisdom and discretion. I have said enough to show that even in the pleasures of the table municipal England is "working out the brute;" and the only other feature I would notice here in connection with the Mayors' Feasts, is that most gallant example of Mr. Clement Stretton's,

who taught several lessons in garden parties at Glenn, and who in giving a luncheon, during his second Mayoralty, at the opening of Mr. Hart's Fountain, on September 24th, 1879, invited one lady along with each male guest to enjoy his recherche hospitality in the Corn Exchange. The Laureate's appeal to the Old Year is being more and more realised, decade after decade:—

Ring out the slowly dying cause With ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life With sweeter manners, purer laws.

I see some people are making a fuss about the amount the Mayor is expected to spend, during his year of office, as if that were a deterrent to any man really worthy of, and in proper circumstances to aspire to, the honour; but no recent election utterance has better pleased me than that of Alderman Barfoot, as chairman of a meeting in West St. Mary's Ward, on 20th October, 1880, when he said:—"I do not think the chief magistrates of the town feed the rich people and forget the poor. My own experience is, that the gatherings to which reference has been made are the most enjoyable part of the duties of the Mayor; and I do not think they should deprive him of such enjoyment, considering the other important and laborious work he has to do." May the time be long distant when the head of an important Corporation like Leicester will be niggardly in Mayoral hospitality!



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VALEDICTORY.

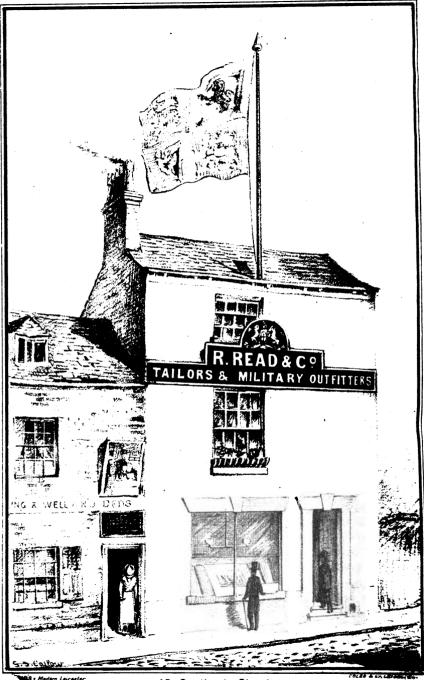
ND now, dear reader, a few words of farewell. Economy. without parsimony, is a motto for every man. It is not for what a man makes that he should be appreciated, but for the judicious and yet generous way in which he farms his income. The glory of possessing a competent livelihood is the independence with which the possessor is dowered, tempted neither to cringe to any above him, nor to domineer over any on his level or beneath When I see a man, of limited means, perhaps even out of work, turning up his nose at American beef or Australian mutton or such lentils as Esau was willing to sell his birthright for, I am disposed to reject the Scriptural warning, and ejaculate, "Thou fool!" When one has begun to judge of a thing by its intrinsic worth, not by what price is asked for it, and guide oneself accordingly, with health to work and work to do, one is on the high road to independence. But I shall soon be taken for a preacher if I continue moralising thus, and that is not my I don't wish any man to keep always in his mind that every time he drinks a pint of ale he swallows, as Lord Derby maintains, a square yard of good agricultural land. What a man can afford he has a right to enjoy, as a reasonable being. Even divines do not scruple to pray for "a competent portion of the good things of this life and God's blessing with them." I only

want to urge my townspeople not to forget, when the sun shines, that some time they may have to wail—

The day is cold and dark and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary,
The vine still clings to the mould'ring wall;
And, like shadows deep, the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.

Are you an Oddfellow or a Forester, or a member of a sound Sick and Burial Society? If not, you should be, unless you are insured in the ordinary commercial way, or have some provision made against days when "the sound of the grinding is low." That Provident Dispensary, now, is a grand self-keeping institution, where, by the payment of a few copper coins per week, a whole family may, in sickness, obtain the best medical skill and medicaments. What family man, of the most meagre income, does not aspire to really own and not be merely the tenant of an "Englishman's Castle?" By paying to the Crown Society, in the Royal Arcade (and I select this merely as an example and not invidiously)-by paying say 6s. weekly-an ordinary rentanyone may become the proprietor of his own house, at a price of say £150, and clear off both principal and interest in less than 14 years. As an instance of the progress of "Thrift" in Leicester, I may say that in one year the Society's members increased from 120 to 330, and the deposits and subscriptions, during the year, amounted to £2,338 16s. 6d. The Leicester and Leicestershire Savings' Bank is another instance, as evidenced in the following comparative statement which shows the progress of the institution for the last seven years :-

	OPEN ACCOUNTS.	BALANCE DUE TO DEPOSITORS.	AMOUNT RECEIVED.	AMOUNT PAID INCLUDING INTEREST.		
Year ending November, 1873 "1874 "1875 "1876 "1876 "1877 "1878 "1879	9707 10,234 11,165 12,209 13,314 14,328 15,392	£ s. d. 215,117 11 7 227,873 5 9 252,567 14 0 272,796 8 2 298,144 17 3 317,308 17 0 328,454 9 9	£ s. d. 56,391 2 4 58,653 18 11 68,788 15 8 77,160 18 5 122,618 18 5 136,854 1 9 125,141 0 4	£ s. d. 54,797 1 8 51,998 17 8 50,682 17 5 64,114 3 5 104,898 11 1 117,477 7 4 113,680 19 11		



48. Southgate Street.

This is a surprising result, when it is remembered that the smallest deposit taken is 1s., and the largest sum that can be allowed to accumulate £200. One more and the last example is to be found in the Leicester Permanent Building Society. The following extracts from various years' reports show the growth of this society:—

Year.	M	[ember	8.	Shares.]	Receipts.	:	Securities held.
1853		325		564		£3,325	•••	£2.935
1858		625		1298		8,812		30,325
1863		1311		2777		21,649		79,875
1868		2242		4842	•••	37,476		138,500
1873		3270		7241		70,686		247,475
1878		3623		8344		114,680		350,525

When it is considered that notwithstanding the number of advances granted and the amount of money lent, not one bad debt has been made, and not a property is on hand, it will be seen at once how great has been the success of the undertaking, and what habits of forethought, thrift, and regularity have been To the very poorest who can save a penny at a time, Mr. Fawcett has opened up a splendid opportunity. The clerkly work in booking penny deposits on a national scale would be too expensive, but the Postmaster-General has hit on the happy plan of issuing a card obtainable at the Post-office. When one has a penny to save, one has only to buy a postage stamp, attach it to the card, and twelve stamps having been thus attached, take it to the Post-office, when 1s. will be entered to his credit as a depositor in the Post-office Savings' Banks. pleasant to notice Lady John Manners cordially recommending, through the newspapers, this ingenious device to encourage thrift applied by Lord John's successor in office. But there is another crying enemy to thrift that should be fought hand to hand by employers and employed alike, for their mutual benefit. subtle enemy, insidious and deadly, is wastefulness. Wastefulness of time, of coal, of gas, of material, is worse than open, foolish throwing away of money, and is only exceeded by the wanton follies of underselling, of scamping work, of tampering with non-payers and bad payers, of giving credit without inquiry, of post-dating invoices, of dealing leniently with reckless insolvents.

Thrift—the art of thriving—forgotten, whether socially, municipally, commercially, or individually, and no person or community can prosper. This is why I write thus on taking leave of the pleasing task of studying my beloved native town—because "Modern Leicester," thriftily, honestly, intelligently, and tastefully guarded and guided by both rulers and ruled, is destined to rise into the proud rank of the Queen City of the Midlands!



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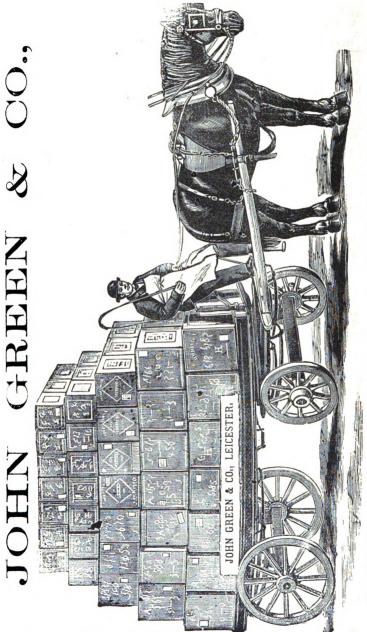
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Sherrard, A., Upholsterer, 10, Eastgates 29	West Bridge	Х
Slaymaker, Collier, and Crowson,	Westby, J., and Son, Cutlers, 18, Hum	
Masons, Humberstone-gate 63	berstone-gate	3:
Smith, John, Steam Dyer, Highcross-st. 1	Wiggins, R. F., Grocer, New Bridge-st. 3	3
Smith and Co., Paper Hanging Mer-	Wilson, T., Optician, 4, Belvoir-street	5:
chants, 10, Belgrave-gate 50	Winks and Sons, Printers, High-street	57
Southam and Allen, Corn Merchants,	Withers and Fowler, Booksellers, 25,	
1, Southgates 14	Withers and Fowler, Booksellers, 25, 29 and 31, Loseby-lane 2	2
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Manufacturers, Southgate-street 14	Remover, 11, Hanover street 4	4:
Spurway, J., Carpet Warehouse, 51,	Woolmer, W. H., jun., Furniture	
Highcross-street 46	Remover, Dover-street 6	
Staynes, W. H., Leather Merchant,	Wren, J. P., Twine and Paper Mer-	
Belgrave-gate 7	chant, 23, Belvoir-street 2	
Timson, J., Confectioner, High-street 38	Wright, J. S., Shoe Machinist, St.	
Wand, Stephen, Chemist, Haymarket 17	James-street	ĸ.
Ward, T. N., Upholsterer, 66a and 66b,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	٥.
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Humberstone-gate 11		

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The Tower	,, ,,	3 IO O	3 Ó O
Princess of Wales	,, ,,	4 4 0	3 10 o
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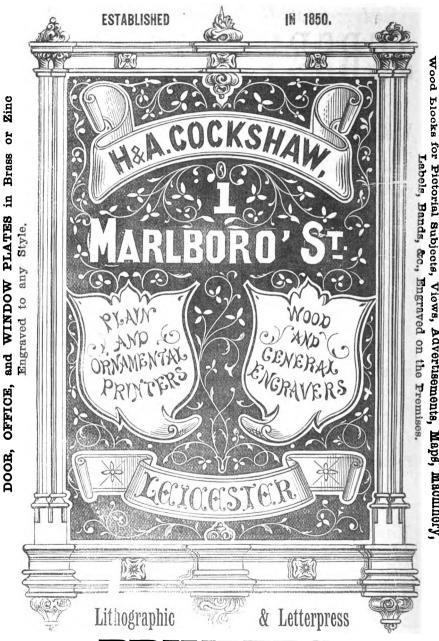
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Upon receiving orders from doubtful or unknown quarters the Subscriber should at once communicate with this department, when he will receive, with the least possible delay (probably by return of post) full particulars as to the party or parties enquired about, with advice as to whether credit should be given or not.

Debt Department.

Upon debts being handed into the Office for collection, application is at once made for them, and if not paid by the time specified by the Subscriber prompt legal proceedings is taken, and all due deligence used to bring them to a successful issue. In cases requiring prompt and speedy action, the Agency undertakes to make a personal application for debts and thereby often getting security for same, otherwise the Subscriber would probably have to take a dividend or composition.

Gazette Department.

This Agency undertakes to furnish Subscribers with a weekly or monthly Gazette, containing lists of Bills of Sale, Judges Orders, Warrants of Attorneys, Cognovits, County Count Judgments, Bankruptcies, Liquidations, Notices of Meetings of Creditors, results of same, dividends payable and other valuable information applying to the whole of the United Kingdom. The Managers begs to assure the trading community there is no other means of obtaining this most valuable information only through the medium of this Gazette.

Estate Department.

Upon a Subscriber receiving Notice of a Meeting of Creditors, he should at once bring the same to the Office of this Agency, when the Managers will fill up his proof of debt and get him sworn to the same free of charge; if necessary, the Managers will obtain a list of the debtor's creditors and all other information relative to his failure that will be of most valuable assistance to the Subscriber at the Meeting of Creditors. If the Subscriber requests it, the Managers will represent him at the Meeting of Creditors and report the result of same to the Subscriber. The Managers will undertake the office of receiver or trustee in any estate in which a Subscriber is interested, giving security for the faithful discharge of his duties; his remuneration may be fixed by a Committee of the Creditors appointed at the General Meeting. The Managers will call Private Meetings of Creditors which may be held at the Offices of this Agency, free of charge; by this means the great expense attending Liquidation proceedings will be saved, resulting in larger dividends and so greatly benefitting the Creditors gene-Subscribers are entitled to legal advice, free of charge, upon any trade question from Solicitor for the Agency.

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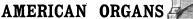
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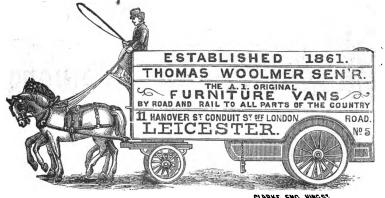
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THOMAS CARLYLE, the Chelsea philosopher, wrote Sartor Resartus—which may be familiarly translated, "The Tailor Re-tailored"—with the view of stripping man of his adventitious garmenture, and examining him as an animal without clothes. It may be intrinsically true that

"Worth makes the man, the want of it the fellow; The rest is all but leather and prunella!"

but then the majority of our race are superficial observers who will not take Carlyle's trouble to penetrate beneath the surface. While it is admitted theoretically that "things are not what they seem," and that it is dangerous to judge by appearances, still the wisest of us cannot get over the first impression made on our minds by anyone soliciting our notice. Whether in "the camp, the court, the grove," the bank-parlour, the office, or the shop, the odds are much in the favour of the welldressed man, What sane individual would venture to pay his addresses in a coat out at elbows; or who, under the standing of a Rothschild, would of his own choice risk his financial credit by sporting a shabby hat? The scientific tailor is, indeed, a magician under whose spells the most ungainly figure can "be got up to kill" on the shortest notice, Exact measurement is well enough in its way-indeed the basis of good tailoring; but unless the tape is in the hands of a skilled mathematician, with an eye to form lines of beauty out of the most unpromising conformations, it cannot be denied that perfect accuracy of measure may produce an abortion of a garment. Let those who like it sing that "nature when unadorned 's adorned the most;" we prefer masculine nature as it is adorned by the sartorial science of Messrs.. READ & Co., 48, Southgate Street. It is a treat to watch the Principal taking in, at one comprehensive glance, the figure which he has to tape, and defining to an eighth of an inch the narrow line that separates beauty from deformity; and if you had the additional treat of seeing the garment fitted on before absolute completion, and marking not merely its mathematical accuracy but its its artistic grace, you would readily confess that in this establishment—everywhere the pink of neatness—tailoring has, in truth, been elevated into a fine art. Mr. READ has given much study to the development of a sound, scientific system of measuring and cutting; and principles matured by him have become scientific standards in many establishments of the West End. In plain terms, Messrs. READ & Co., having the necessary skill, can and do produce garments that cannot be rivalled anywhere, and at much more moderate figures than are charged by so-called fashionable London tailors. Nor does this arise from "scamped" work, for nothing is turned out from 48, Southgate Street, that is not, for material, trimmings, and workmanship, above criticism; but Messrs. READ & Co. have not a London rent to pay, and, above all, not encouraging the custom of non-payers or bad payers, they have no bad debts to recoup by charging them to good customers, and thus making the innocent suffer for the guilty. Their magnificent stock of cloths has been selected from the most famous manufacturers to meet every taste; and, in whatever profession or pastime engaged, you can easily tell

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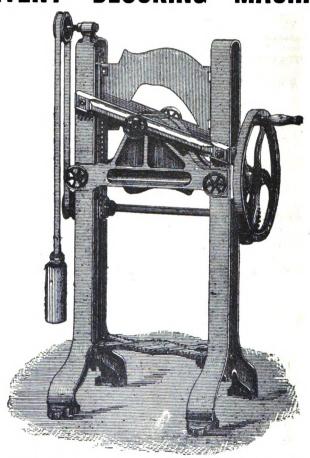
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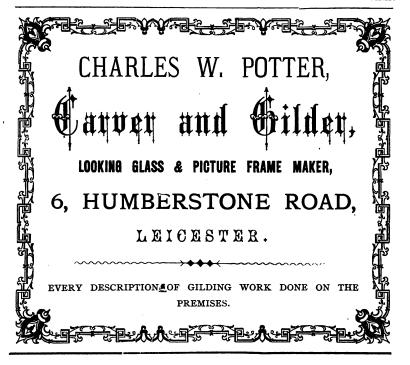
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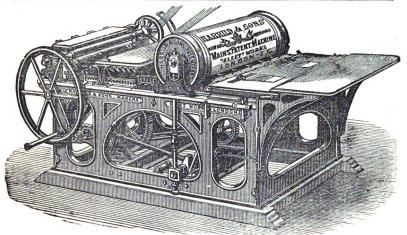
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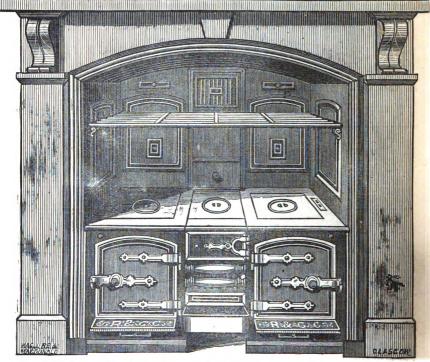
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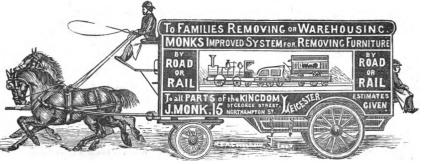
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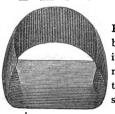
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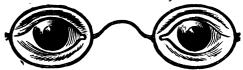
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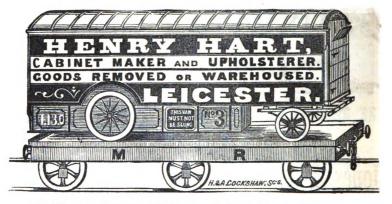
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